NEW YORK POST

Happy 4th of July

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026 / Hot, late t-storm, 95° / Weather: P. 22 ★★ LATE CITY FINAL nypost.com $2.00

America celebrates its 250th birthday

Getty Images

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SO PROUDLY WE HAIL!

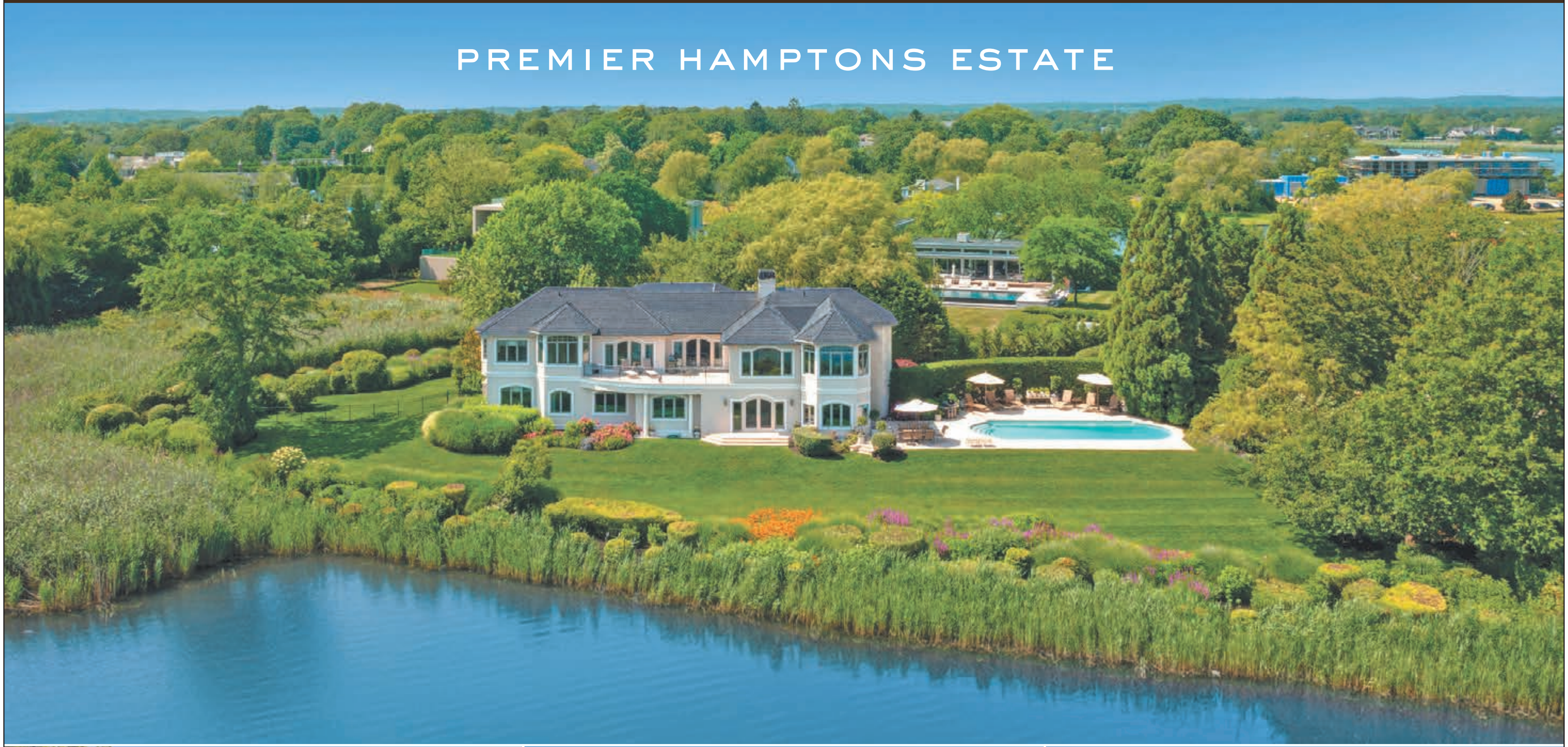
From sea to shining sea, Americans joined to celebrate the great experiment that started with the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Tall ships entered New York Harbor, planes buzzed the Washington Monument, and crowds prepared for today's massive fireworks shows.

PAGES 4-9

Reuters

SAUNDERS

A HIGHER FORM OF REALTY



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‘Jaws’-dropping holiday attack

JONES BEACH SHARK SHOCK

BACK IN THE SWIM: Intrepid swimmers wade into the Jones Beach surf Friday after shark spotters gave the all-clear.

Dennis A. Clark for NY Post

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

A swimmer’s “bone” was left exposed after what lifeguards believe was a shark attack at Jones Beach Friday afternoon, sources told The Post.

In a scene straight out of “Jaws,” the beast chomped on the man’s foot around noon at the state park’s Field 6 as the Blue Angels Fourth of July holiday air show soared overhead, witnesses said.

“He came running over to our lifeguard stand . . . his foot was bleeding and he was saying, ‘I got bit, I got bit! I don’t want to look,’ ” said lifeguard Kate Maio, who was sitting on the stand and treated the victim.

“The man who got bit said that it felt like a jaw-biting motion and that it went clean through.”

The wound was a single, deep gash that sliced along the man’s toes, exposing the white bone beneath, the lifeguard said.

Maio’s partner jumped from the stand and wrapped the man’s foot in a shirt like a tourniquet, but the slow bleeding suddenly started gushing.

Possible sand shark

“It was bleeding through the shirt,” she said. “It was crazy, but these things happen.”

The man had been swimming at the edge of the green flags — which designate the swimmable areas of the beach.

That means he was close to where fishermen set up shop on the shores, Maio explained.

EMS responded to the scene and took him to an area hospital, where lifeguards expect him to make a full recovery.

The man did not see the shark himself, but another bather told lifeguards that she watched a fin swim away in the seconds after the man was bitten.

Based on the wounds, Maio and her colleagues theorize a baby sand tiger shark may have been to blame.

The attack came while hundreds of bathers were desperately cooling off in the ocean as grueling 100-degree temperatures bore down on the sand.

The giant crowds were also supplemented by those who flocked to Jones Beach to watch the Navy’s Blue Angels practice for their blockbuster July Fourth performance — the fighter jets will lead the International Aerial Review Saturday in the skies above the Statue of Liberty.

Sightings nearby

The encounter is believed to be the first of the summer at Jones Beach and comes just one day after multiple shark sightings shut down nearby shores.

A swarm of bull sharks patrolling Rockaway Beach kept swimmers out of the water for hours Thursday, while a massive 9-foot shark was spotted at Point Lookout.

kdonlevy@nypost,com

‘Pour’th of July t-storm

4th OF JULY
95° /75°
Sunny, t-storm late

SUNDAY
86° /70°
Cooler, late showers

Mother Nature wants to put on her own fireworks show!

A booming thunderstorm is poised to strike the Big Apple during the Fourth of July fireworks festivities, as sweltering heat continues to bake the city, meteorologists said Friday.

A storm with possible rain and lightning is forecast to move into New York City after 4 p.m. Saturday — threatening to upstage the pyrotechnics and put a damper on folks gathered outside for the show, said AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Matt Benz.

“If you are setting up a place to see fireworks along the East River, have in mind a place where you could take cover,” Benz said. “Keep an eye on the sky. Lightning is a big concern.”

“It’s hard to say that any one location will for sure be dry for fireworks,” he said of the New York City area. *Natalie O’Neill*

‘Pink salt cloud’ planet is *wayyyy* out there

Scientists have discovered salt clouds surrounding the notable “Pink Planet,” according to a new study released by astronomers at Northwestern University.

Discovered in 2013, the vibrantly colored planet is one of the coldest known celestial objects ever directly imaged, and until recently has been too faint to examine from Earth’s light.

However, recent observations by the James Webb Space Telescope have provided evidence for a theory scientists first hypothesized more than 15 years ago: that the “Pink Planet” had salt clouds within its atmosphere.

“The Pink Planet is the coldest companion ever discovered using ground-based instruments,” Northwestern’s Aneesh Baburaj, who led the study, said.

“Many teams all around the world performed follow-up observations to study its light, but it was too faint for ground-based instruments. That made it a perfect target,” Baburaj continued.

“When we finally obtained its spectrum, it immediately looked interesting. But once we started digging deeper into the data, we realized it was not like anything we had analyzed before.”

NASA said the Pink Planet was first discovered in 2013, and is known as GJ 504 b. The exoplanet orbits a sun-like star about 57 light-years from Earth.

A plane traveling about 600 mph would be there in 64 million years.

According to the study, data from the planet revealed a mix of water vapor, methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia and other molecules.

When the researchers tried to reconstruct the simulated atmosphere, it did not match the planetary observations unless there were unique, salty features in them.

Dominic Popolo, FOX

Fatherly advice for

PROUD ULYSSES

Grant kin on holiday

By CHRIS NESI

America celebrated its National Day of Jubilee, or 100th birthday, on July 4, 1876, with then-President Ulysses S. Grant declaring it a "day of reflection and gratitude" as patriotic celebrations broke out across the rapidly growing country still reeling from the Civil War.

"The Centennial Anniversary of the day on which the people of the United States declared their right to a separate and equal station among the Powers of the Earth seems to demand an exceptional observance," Grant said in his June 26, 1876, proclamation.

stefano Giovannini for NY Post

LINEAGE: Ulysses Dietz says great-great-grandfather and former President Ulysses S. Grant would be proud of the United States today.

Still relevant

As the country hits its 250th year, many things have changed, but Ulysses Dietz, the youngest great-great-grandchild of Ulysses and former first lady Julia Grant, told The Post his ancestor would have a lot to be proud of.

"I think a lot of great things have been achieved that he would be pleased at because they were part of his vision for what could be," Dietz said of his great-great-grandfather, who championed civil rights during Reconstruction. "I think he would also see a lot of bad things that were also bad when he was president and be disappointed that we haven't overcome that."

As for what Grant would be most proud of 150 years after he marked the celebration of America's 100th birthday, "I think he would see a country that was pluralistic and ethnically diverse and religiously diverse, where people have opportunity and everybody can go to college, anybody can be president," Dietz said. "I think it's remarkable that [the Founding Fathers] without understanding where the country would go, came up with ideas that were every bit as important and relevant now as they were 250 years ago. Honoring that commitment to freedom, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — and still improving on it — is something we should be very proud of."

MICHAEL AUSLIN

WHEN the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on the morning of July 4, 1776, they were making a fundamental compact uniting Americans for all time.

It may not have seemed so on that steamy morning in Philadelphia, when the members of the Continental Congress adopted Thomas Jefferson's announcement that the united colonies had voted — two days earlier — to separate from Great Britain.

The Declaration was seen as an administrative task, something necessary to legitimize their attempts to form an alliance with France and to start creating a confederated government among the 13 now sovereign states.

So busy were they with the business of trying to turn around a losing war that not until weeks later did they even think to have their Declaration written out formally and signed.

The summer of 1776 was a dark time for the Americans.

The British had evacuated Boston back in March, but the war was going badly, within half a year, Congress would flee Philadelphia for Baltimore as the British chased George Washington and the Continental Army across New Jersey.

The Declaration was meant to give comfort to the Patriots, sway the undecided, and maybe even convince some Loyalists to switch sides.

Congress spent two full days debating the draft of young Jefferson and the Committee of Five, which included Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. They cared enough about the statement to cut nearly a quarter of Jefferson's words, including his passionate condemnation of the slave trade, while strengthening other parts.

But how could they realize this announcement would be celebrated a quarter of a millennium later?

Or that its phrases would change the world?

Famous edits

They almost certainly had no expectations that the Declaration would become, next to the Bible, perhaps the most famous statement of political and moral principles in history.

The signers wrote their Declaration with the express purpose of uniting Americans.

As John Adams recalled later in life, at the time of Independence, only one-third of Americans supported separating from England.

Moreover, the 13 colonies were extremely heterogenous for their time, with different governing and religious traditions, different ethnicities and languages, and different economies. Yet, in order to win the war and survive in a hostile world, the "free and independent" colonies — now States — would have to find unity amidst diversity.

Thus someone, maybe Benja-

Brit hits Rebel gold

A volunteer poring through 18th-century naval letters in London serendipitously stumbled onto an ultra-rare copy of the Declaration of Independence — one of 11 of its kind, he and experts said.

America's most defining document had been stuffed in a dusty stack with the ho-hum label "another paper" when Michael Scurr made the mind-blowing discovery at Britain's National Archives in May, he said.

"I thought, oh, right, OK, this is definitely a Declaration of Independence," said Scurr, a retired insurance executive. "How exciting is this?"

The time-worn treasure was printed just days after the original was signed on July 4, 1776, to spread news that America's 13 colonies had cut ties with Britain.

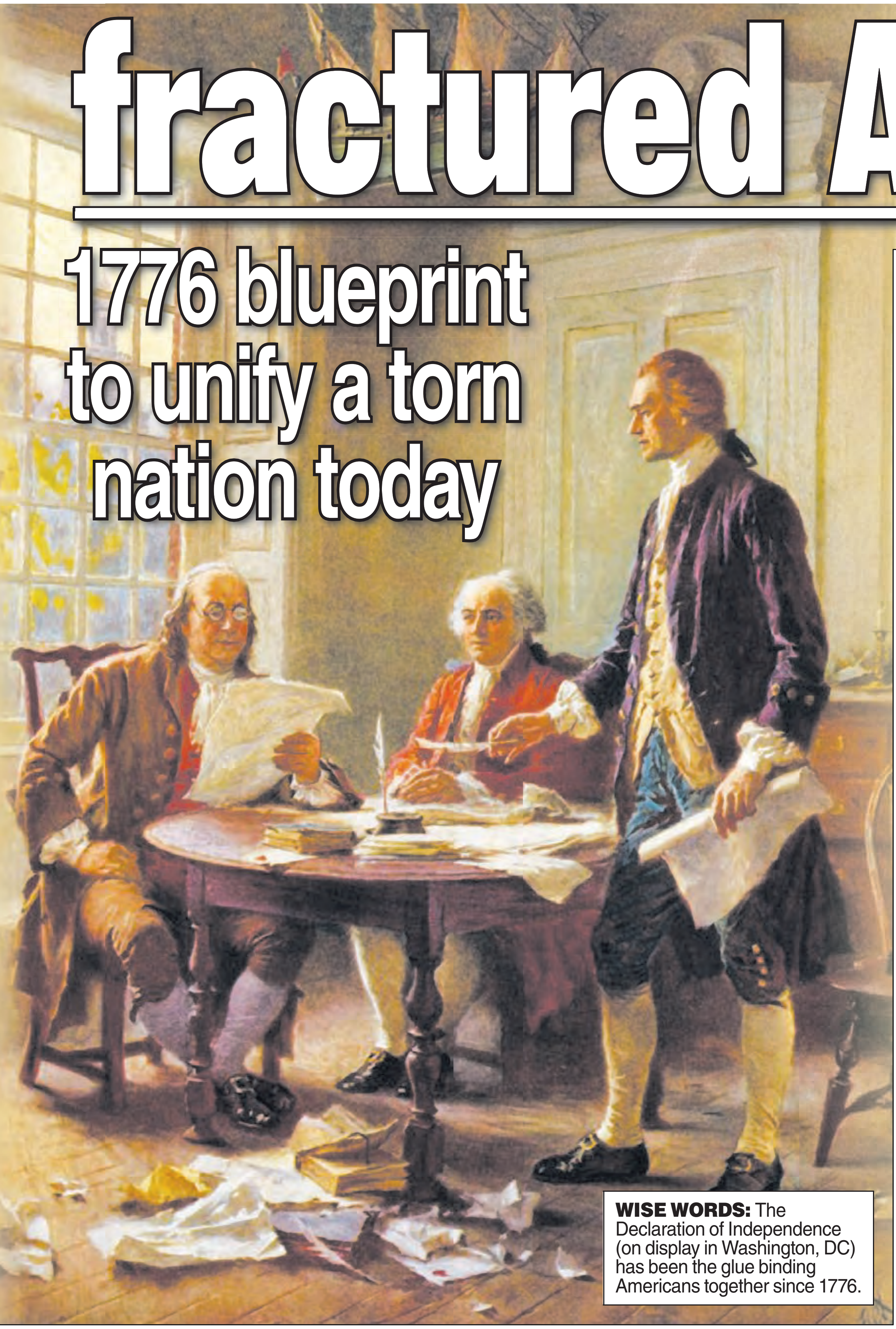
Researchers at the National Archives have since confirmed the document is a rare early copy of the Declaration of Independence.

A similar Exeter printed Declaration of Independence sold at auction in January for more than $5.6 million.

Natalie O'Neill

fractured America

1776 blueprint to unify a torn nation today



WISE WORDS: The Declaration of Independence (on display in Washington, DC) has been the glue binding Americans together since 1776.

Getty Images

min Franklin, edited the very first line of Jefferson's draft to read: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for *one* people to dissolve the political bands . . ." (emphasis added).

Jefferson had originally written "*a* people," but this did not meet the moment.

Another famous edit: "We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable," changed to the immortal "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

This was the first statement of what we now embrace as the American creed or ethos — one that took nearly two centuries to fully be realized, but which is shared and defended by all Americans.

Even the 27 charges against King George III, which formed the main part of the Declaration, were written to present British actions as an attack on all Americans, even if any specific offense had happened only in one colony.

Rather, each colonist was to feel part of a wronged community, and thus linked to their fellow American, even one living hundreds of miles away. Georgia plantation owners, Philadelphia merchants, and New Hampshire small farmers were one people suffering under the tyranny of the King.

Unity above all else

Finally, in their stirring peroration, the signers added:

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

They did not so pledge to the new nation, which would have been expected, or even to their sovereign states, but to *each other*.

This was the clearest example of their covenant and how they explicitly wrote the Declaration as a statement of unity.

They succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

It is the greatness of the Declaration that its 18th century silences — on women, blacks, and American Indians — could be filled in the 19th and 20th centuries to embrace all who wanted to be accepted fully as Americans. That everyone from Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony would appeal to it.

Or, that tens of millions of immigrants who came to these shores would embrace the Declaration as their new birth certificate, translating it into Swedish, Greek, Italian, Yiddish, Polish, Russian, and other languages, and then would commit to defending its principles during World War I and II, and the Cold War.

Today, that unity is needed more than ever. With Americans seemingly at each other's throats over politics, economics and social issues, and with social media amplifying every angry voice, it can seem as if we are irreparably splitting apart.

A March 2026 poll by Pew found that 53% of Americans viewed their fellow citizens as morally bad — not just mistaken or ill-informed, but bad.

No one, certainly not the brilliant, vain, and ambitious Founding Fathers believed that citizens had to love each other — they were too much the realists to pretend otherwise.

But they clearly believed that we could not hate each other and survive as a nation. It is a lesson we must remember today.

Thus, they wrote their Declaration with the express goal of unity in mind. For those who joined the Patriot side in 1776, unity across geographic, economic, religious and social boundaries was a constant project, but one that helped keep them together through the following six years of war.

Been tested before

That unity has been tested throughout our history, and it failed during our greatest catastrophe in the 1860s.

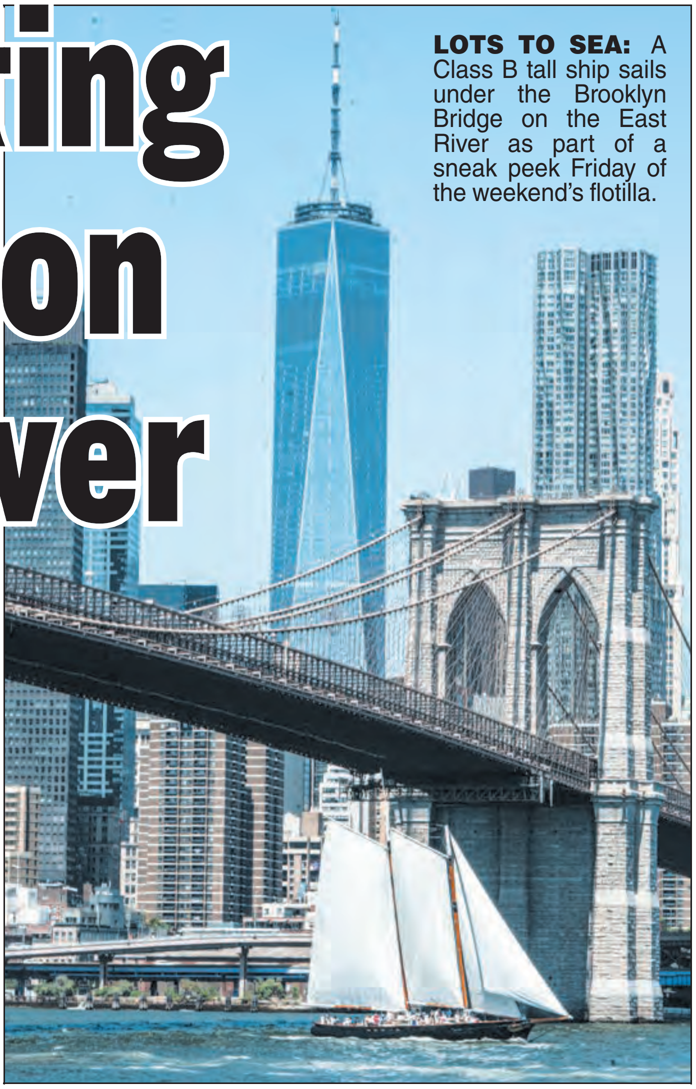
Yet for millions of Americans and over our quarter-millennium, the Declaration has been the glue binding Americans to each other, in both their aspirations and their attempts to make a more perfect Union.

That unity, stressed by George Washington in his Farewell Address and two generations later by Daniel Webster ("Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!") is the Founders greatest gift to Americans, and educating Americans of its overriding importance, is the great civic mission of our times.

Michael Auslin is the Payson J. Treat Distinguished Research Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution and the author of "National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America" (Avid Reader Press/Simon & Schuster).

Red, white and blue woo-hoo: 'I'm

Sighting sail on E. River



LOTS TO SEA: A Class B tall ship sails under the Brooklyn Bridge on the East River as part of a sneak peek Friday of the weekend's flotilla.

USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect

By XAVIER SERRANO
and KATHERINE DONLEVY

From sea to shining sea.

A jaw-dropping fleet of US and international ships sailed down the East River on Friday in an impressive sneak peek of the historic flotilla for Saturday's blockbuster Fourth of July party.

More than two dozen magnificent Class B tall ships navigated from the Hell Gate Bridge to Gravesend Bay — luring a large crowd of wide-eyed gawkers to witness the sight.

"I'm enjoying it at the surface level but also at the symbolic level. Marking our 250th anniversary of declaring our independence . . . I'm a big fan of all this, and glad to see people out here also enjoying it," Raymond Hunts, 40, software engineer and Army veteran, told The Post as the giant masts and sails coasted along the stretch of water. "I'm just happy to be here."

Around the world

The striking parade featured Class B ships from across the globe, a classification meaning they are smaller in stature than the Class A tall ships that will sail through the New York Harbor on Saturday.

The ceremonial procession was led by the red sails of the US's Angelique, the US' 130-foot-long schooner built to mimic the classic 19th-century English sailing-vessel style.

It was closely followed by the British Virgin Islands' STV Vela, a 112-foot gaff-rigged schooner typically used for study abroad and gap-year programs in the Caribbean, and Monaco's Tuiga, one of the last remaining 15-Metre Class yachts in the world.

The Lynx proudly flew the USA flag as it sailed down the waterway, which was patrolled by various Coast Guard vessels.

More than half of the ships are expected to appear in the massive Sail4th parade Saturday morning — in which nearly 100 ships from across the globe will sail together in what will be the largest flotilla in history.

The American Eagle, America 2.0, Liberty Clipper and Integrity were among the many American ships that paraded Friday and will join the much larger Class A ships Saturday.

Enthusiastic spectator John Farrar raced to the Brooklyn waterfront, telling The Post: "The East River feels like my river and I wanted to check this out. This doesn't happen every day."

'Means something'

Willow Ayers, an architect, agreed, saying the parade brought back sweet memories of growing up on the island of Bequia. "I miss being on the ocean, so this is the next best thing," said Ayers, 51.

Others felt more emotional about the international congregation, which will continue in the days following the blockbuster July 4 event.

"Even with all of our polarization and divisions, nations around the world have sent ships of greeting and congratulations, and that means something I think should be something to all of us at this difficult time in our country," reflected Patrick Egan, 55, a political science professor.

just proud to be an American’

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

PARTY ON: Fourth of July fun included an “Iwo Jima” drone show in Philadelphia, a patriotic Sphere in Las Vegas, flag-waving kids in New Jersey and a flag-themed Washington Monument.

ZUMAPRESS.com

By GEORGETT ROBERTS
and CHRIS NESI

Americans united for a joyous celebration 250 years in the making as the Land of the Free marked a quarter-millennium of independence — and the birth of the once-radical notion to guarantee each and every inhabitant life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

President Trump kicked off America’s 250th birthday party Friday with a visit to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota as a prelude to his “Salute to America” bash in the nation’s capital.

Supersonic jets are set to scream across the skies over Washington, DC, throughout the afternoon and evening Saturday, culminating with flyovers by Trump’s new Air Force One and a B-1 stealth bomber, followed by a record-smashing fireworks spectacle.

New York City has also been a hotbed of patriotic festivities, and revelers both local and from out of town are out in force and ready to party like it’s 1776.

Wendell Mackey, 64, in New York City for the first time specifically to celebrate America’s milestone moment with his wife, Heather, 63, was showing off his love of the country with a T-shirt festooned with Old Glory.

“My grandparents fled Hitler before World War II and came through Ellis Island and America welcomed them and gave them a home. If it wasn’t for them and if it wasn’t for America, I wouldn’t be here.”

‘A better life here’

Wendell, who is of Polish descent, said the occasion has become a global affair.

“I’ve met people from Australia, Japan and Germany who told me they are here to celebrate our anniversary with us. That makes me feel proud, even with different lifestyles, different backgrounds we mesh together, we come together and celebrate together,” he said. “I’m just proud to be an American, a country that changes the world and gave my grandparents a chance. They came with nothing and they made it. With hard work you can make it in America.”

Irfaan Jawad, 60, a cab driver who came to the US from Pakistan with his family 11 years ago, is a living embodiment of the American dream. He got his citizenship on May 7, 2021, and today he’s a grandfather. “I work hard. My children get to go to college. I have a better life here and my children will have a better life than me,” the Long Island resident told The Post. “I wasn’t born here, but I am an American.”

Vice President JD Vance will headline Sail4th 250, a historic gathering in New York Harbor of military aircraft, tall ships and naval vessels from the US and more than 20 other nations. Saturday’s Grand Parade of Sail will see a fleet of 43 Class A tall ships and 22 Class B vessels sail under the Verrazzano Bridge, past the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge.

The Macy’s July 4th fireworks show will “illuminate New York City’s iconic skyline with a kaleidoscope of color” as it celebrates its own 50th anniversary.

Timeline of events for the Fourth of July:

NYC events

7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: International naval review (in New York Harbor along Hudson River)

- **Vice President JD Vance will make remarks from USS Kearsarge**

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Parade of sails (through New York Harbor)

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.: International aerial review (over Statue of Liberty)

9:25 p.m.: Macy’s July 4th fireworks show (over East River and Hudson River)

DC events

1:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.: Military flyover

- **Will include demonstrations every hour. Includes NASA’s supersonic F-5 light fighter jets, Navy Blue Angels; Air Force Thunderbirds; F/A-18F Super Hornets; F-22 Raptors; F-35 stealth fighters; and US Coast Guard helicopters**

9:45 p.m.: President Trump addresses US (in front of World War II Memorial)

10:30 p.m.: Largest fireworks display in history (over Potomac River)

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

Trump at Rushmore

GO HIGH: Air Force One makes a flyover at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

AP Photo/Alex Brandon

Speech vs. commies

By VICTOR NAVA

President Trump warned Friday that communism poses a "mortal threat" to the country during a speech at Mount Rushmore on the eve of America's 250th birthday.

"As we approach this magnificent anniversary, we see our American identity under a renewed attack," Trump said in his remarks in South Dakota.

"A generation after we fought and won the Cold War against the menace of communism, there is now a resurgence of the communist menace in our land, including from newcomers to our country who embrace ideas totally opposed to our way of life and our great success," Trump continued.

"These are not mere political disagreements, like differences over taxes or regulations. Communism is a mortal threat to American liberty. It is the greatest threat to our country," Trump declared.

The president described the political and economic ideology as "the exact opposite of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"It's death, tyranny and the pursuit of evil," he said.

"You can be loyal to Karl Marx or you can be loyal to America. You can be a communist or you can be a patriot. You cannot be both," Trump declared.

The president vowed that America would never become a communist country.

Trump's warning comes after several wins by Democratic Socialist candidates in congressional primaries, including Claire Valdez and Darializa Avila Chevalier in New York and Melat Kiros in Colorado.

Valdez and Avila Chevalier won their primaries after receiving endorsements from Mayor Mamdani, whom Trump has previously accused of being a communist.

"The Communist Party is made up of illegal immigrants, criminals, and everybody that doesn't want to work," Trump argued. "Communism is a loser. It always was, and it is. Right now, it's a big loser. Look at the people that are promoting it."

Trump's remarks in South Dakota, with the carved granite faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt serving as the backdrop, were mostly patriotic.

The president expressed pride in serving as the nation's commander in chief as the country prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday.

"Tomorrow we mark 250 years of glorious independence and 250 years of majestic American freedom — nothing like it," the president said.

ZO'S U.S.

By CRAIG McCARTHY,
MATTHEW FISCHETTI,
HANNAH FIERICK
and MATT TROUTMAN

Zo say can you see . . .

Mayor Mamdani decried capitalism and US involvement in foreign wars during an address marking America's 250th anniversary Friday — while sitting at George Washington's desk.

The 15-minute speech — which Mamdani gave while flanked by newly naturalized US citizens — argued America was exceptional because "nothing is fixed into place," as fulfilling the values of freedom enshrined in the Declaration of Independence remains a work in progress.

The democratic socialist mayor called out the "powerful" who treat American ideals as a given only for the "select few," as he elevated the plight and contributions by downtrodden Americans — slaves, Continental Army soldiers, immigrants of all types.

Takes aim at wealthy

"We see a city of contradictions within a nation of contradictions," he intoned. "We see the wealthiest nation in the history of the world — one where children go to sleep hungry while the world's first trillionaire hungers for more. We see monopolies that dominate every industry and oligarchs who buy elections."

The oration stressed unity, yet highlighted deep divisions as America's semiquincentennial approached — and arguably served as a platform for Mamdani to flex his growing political power after a wave of far-left successes in Democratic House primaries in New York City and beyond.

Mamdani's speech preceded another symbolism-rich address planned by his political polar opposite — and surprising texting buddy — President Trump, at Mount Rushmore.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for someone who more-or-less called Trump a "fascist" to his face, Mamdani also argued that America's ideals were "strong enough to endure any authoritarian regime."

The mayor took several veiled swipes at Trump, his hardline immigration crackdown and his wealthy peers.

"We see masked agents terrorizing our streets, eating food cooked by our undocumented neighbors before spiriting them away in unmarked vans," he said. "We see a nation whose immense wealth has been built by those with calloused, dirt-streaked hands . . . a nation that has allowed so much of that wealth to be held in the soft hands of a precious few."

Mamdani also used his soapbox to blast the health insurance industry, landlords and meddling in foreign conflicts.

Speech's 'revision'ist history

Mayor Mamdani's press team accidentally released an advance copy of his speech marking America's 250th birthday Friday — revealing their painfully performative edits.

The team of Gen-Zers quibbled over fine points of American and Big Apple history, such as the minutiae of the revolutionary Battle of Brooklyn or when exactly the first Chinese immigrants arrived in the city.

In a tortured internal debate, the leftist do-gooders also bent over backward to be inclusive, arguing the word "slave" shouldn't be used and that black people should be mentioned.

"Given the fuss they tend to make, I wonder if we should mention the Catholics too," one staffer suggested for a line about Puritans, Sikhs, Quakers, Muslims and Jews escaping religious persecution.

Mamdani's speechwriter Julian Gerson dismissed the concern, scoffing, "meh we can't get everyone." *Matt Troutman*

BIRTHDAY *BASH*

THAT'S RICH: Mayor Mamdani delivered a 250th US anniversary speech Friday that blasted the wealthy — from the desk of George Washington, one of the richest presidents in history.

Anna Connors/Pool The New York Times via AP

Targets rich, foreign policy in address

"I see America in a health insurance industry that exploits the sick, but that is not all I see when I look for America," he said.

"I see America in corporate landlords for whom negligence is a business model," he continued. "I see it, too, in the father who tucks his children into bed beneath a ceiling stained with leaks, wakes before dawn to go to work, and still believes this country can do better by them.

"I see America when we spend our tax dollars on bombs and bailouts, when we sell our elections to the highest bidder," he said.

Mamdani has been a staunch opponent of the US providing military funding to Israel, painting it as an "affordability" issue.

But Hizzoner's screeds against the wealthy were arguably undercut by his use of George Washington's desk — which Mamdani's press team volunteered was older than the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office.

'Dark & vindictive'

Historians generally consider Washington, a slaveowner with vast inherited wealth and landholdings, to have been one of the richest men in the colonies. His peak net worth stood at roughly $700 million adjusted for inflation.

The address and happy participation in America 250 events did little to bolster Mamdani's patriotic bonafides among his many critics.

"Mamdani's 4th of July Address was a dark and vindictive appraisal of America's past, present and future," seethed Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate in New York's upcoming gubernatorial race.

"America is a beacon of freedom that has created more prosperity for everyday people than any other civilization in the history of the world. No wonder people from all over the world crave to come here. Mamdani is a dangerous subversive who must be stopped."

Ungrateful Hiz can't see why nation's great

By POST EDITORIAL BOARD

THE POST SAYS:

Our nation's 250th anniversary is a time of celebration and fireworks, picnics and tall ships and family.

So of course Mayor Mamdani turned it into a lecture blasting America.

Mamdani retold the history of the United States on Friday morning as an unending parade of horrors, an unwelcoming autocracy ruled by the wealthy and powerful.

Even the mass migration into Ellis Island was turned into a parable of the oppressed.

"They could not yet see the nativism they would face — the jobs they would be refused, the landlords who would not rent to them, the abject labor and living conditions they would withstand," Mamdani said.

Apparently, scores of immigrants succeeded here not *because* of the freedom to start your own business, pursue your own ideas and forge your own path.

No, it was "despite laws enacted by the federal government to bar their entry, despite sweatshop fires that killed hundreds of women, despite riots aimed at their very existence."

Focused on the flaws

Sitting at George Washington's desk, Mamdani said when he looks at America, he sees "monopolies that dominate every industry and oligarchs who buy elections," "masked agents terrorizing our streets" and elections sold "to the highest bidder."

Mamdani mentions he's an immigrant himself, but completely ignores the fact that this country, which he says is so unwelcoming, made him the youngest mayor in the history of its largest city.

"Patriotism has never been about pretending our nation is without flaws. Patriotism is every act of righteous dissent, it is every march led under the heavy sun, it is every protest held a decade before its time," Mamdani said.

That is true. But the problem with Mamdani's speech, and that of the 1619 project and college professors across the country, is that the United States is presented as *only* flaws.

The mayor had plenty to say about what's wrong with the nation, but very little about what's right. You can state, as Mamdani did, that we continue to strive for perfection, but it's an empty promise if you pretend nothing has changed in our history and that the United States today is a dystopian force for evil.

A younger generation has been told again and again that we are irredeemable, and have taken the message to heart. You see it in the polls. You see it in the politics.

It's July 4, 250 years after our Declaration of Independence, in a nation of prosperity, love, family and hope. Let's celebrate with gratitude.

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Fri.: **884**
■ Midday Win-4 Fri.: **1117**
■ Midday Take-5 Fri.: **1, 4, 23, 24, 33**
■ Evening Nos. Fri.: **182**
■ Evening Win-4 Fri.: **6378**
■ Evening Take-5 Fri.: **12, 14, 22, 29, 39**
■ Pick-10 Fri.: **2, 13, 18, 20, 26, 27, 33, 38, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 58, 66, 73, 74, 77, 79, 80**
■ Millionaire for Life Fri.: **7, 8, 24, 42, 47**; MB: **3**
■ Mega Millions Fri.: **5, 9, 29, 47, 57**; MB: **16**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Fri.: **412;** Fireball: **1**
■ Pick-4 Fri.: **6221;** Fireball: **1**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **16, 17, 23, 27, 43**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Fri.: **061;** Wild: **7**
■ Play-4 Fri.: **9897;** Wild: **4**
■ Cash-5 Fri.: **1, 3, 12, 23, 28**

Rocketing to *next* 250 years

Artemis II launches
April 2, 2026

Happy
250th,
USA!

Since last year, The New York Post has been celebrating the 250th anniversary of America with important and pivotal stories from the history of our nation and newspaper.

Today, July 4, 2026, we end our quarter-millennium as a country with a recent event: The launch of the Artemis II.

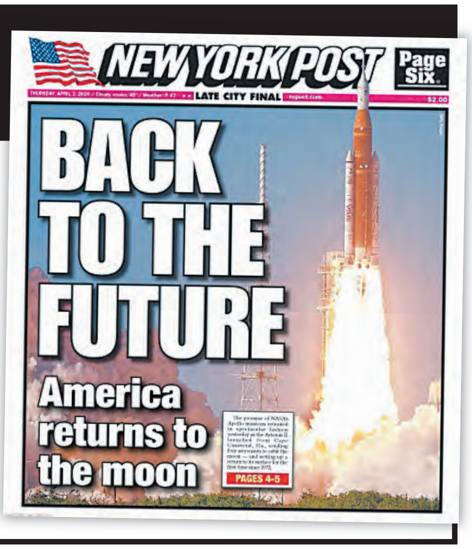
The day after the Artemis II rocket successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. — "sending four astronauts to orbit the moon, and setting up a return to its surface for the first time since 1972" — the cover glowed with both nostalgia for the space-race era and hope for the future.

On April 10, astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, following a successful mission. The crew reached a point 248,655 miles from Earth — the farthest distance ever traveled by humans, breaking a previous record set by Apollo 13 in 1970.

We "choose this moment to challenge this generation and the next to make sure this record is not long-lived," Hansen said.

The Artemis II is a symbol that America is still innovating, still growing, still looking to the future. To the next 250 years!

Hailey Eber



NEW YORK POST
Page Six.
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BACK TO THE FUTURE

America returns to the moon

PAGES 4-5

NYC set to 'trash' 30K curb-parking spaces

By XAVIER SERRANO
and DAVID PROPPER

Nearly 30,000 parking spots across the five boroughs are set to be wiped out to make room for garbage containers over the next several years as part of New York City's ongoing "trash revolution," a new study shows.

The eye-grabbing figure was revealed in a draft environmental impact statement published by the Department of Sanitation this week as part of the city's controversial "Empire Bin" program to curb trash bags littering the sidewalks and keep rats at bay.

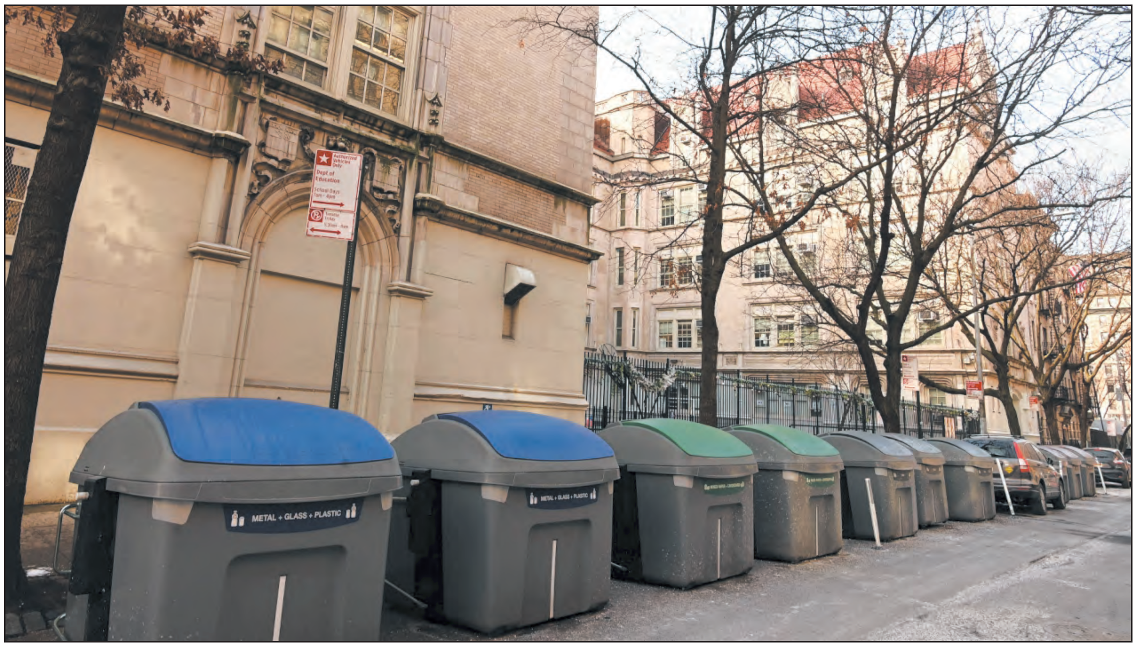
Sanitation Department officials said booting cars from city curbs to make way for the 66,000 Empire Bins was "an extremely worthwhile tradeoff," according to the report released Wednesday.

Effort to boot bags

The bulky garbage containers would gobble up 29,842 parking spaces by 2032 — with upscale Upper Manhattan neighborhoods getting hit the hardest, the documents show.

Former Mayor Eric Adams launched what he called a "trash revolution" to "containerize" city trash instead of having garbage bags strewn across sidewalks.

The effort, which already put containers in slivers of Manhattan with some bins expected in Brooklyn this fall, has continued under the watch of his successor, Mayor Mamdani.



Helayne Seidman

BIN HERE LONG? More trash bins like these on the Upper West Side are coming to all five boroughs in a citywide effort to "containerize" garbage in the hopes of cleaning up the streets and reducing rat infestations.

"In the wealthiest city in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, no New Yorker should have their sidewalks covered in garbage," Mamdani said in April in expanding trash containerization.

The number of spots set to disappear in the next five years, according to the study, amounts to about 1.52% of the city's 1.96 million parking spaces, though some areas will see greater losses than others.

Both the Upper West Side and the Upper East Side could lose around 10% of their parking spaces — or 1,460 and 1,658 spots, respectively, data shows.

'Such limited parking'

The Bronx will dump 2.49% of all spots, and Brooklyn will hemorrhage 1.65%. Queens and Staten Island drivers will deal with the least street space casualties at .58% and .10%, respectively.

Overall, Manhattan will suffer the highest turnover out of the five boroughs at 6.42%. It left uptown drivers honking mad.

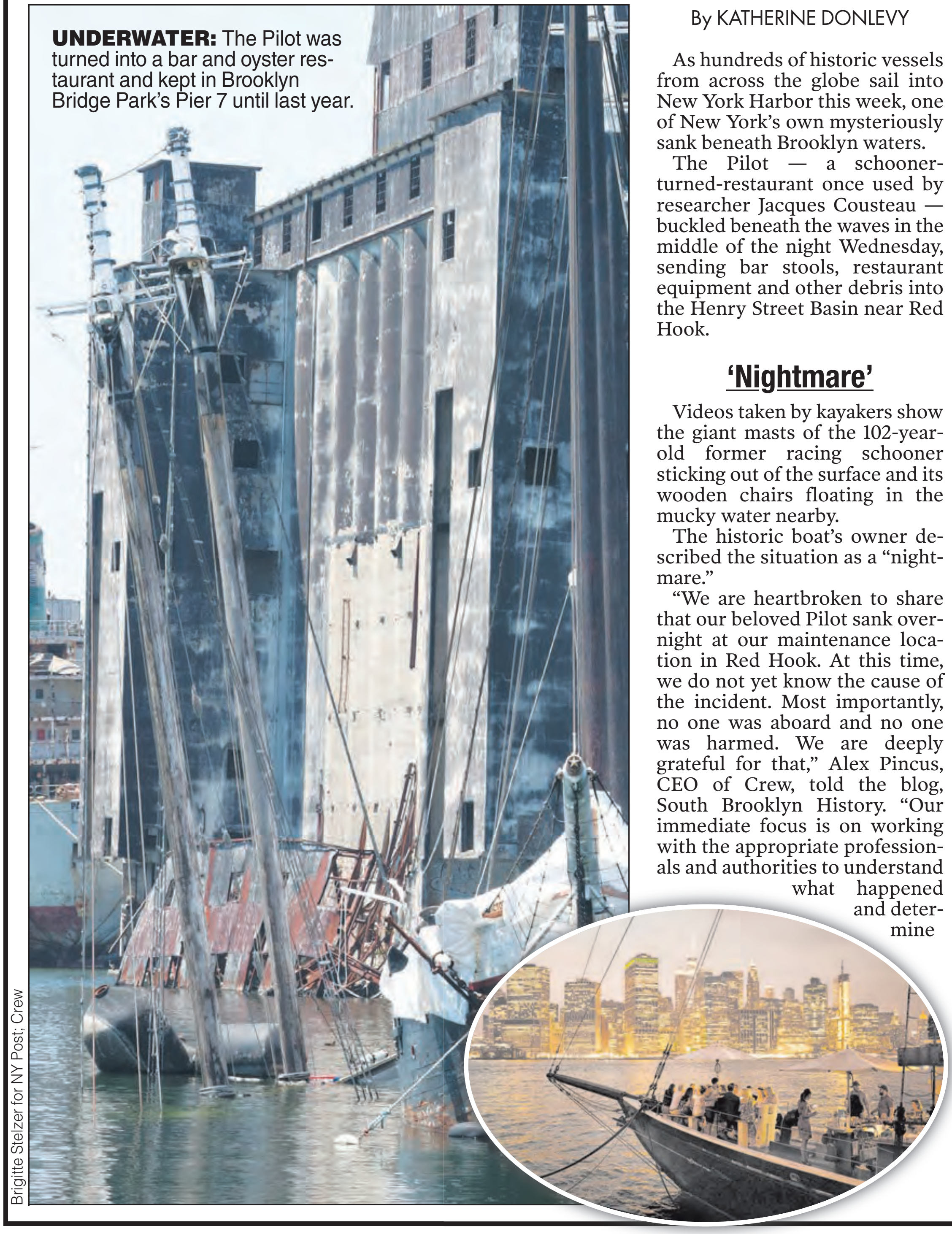
"There's such limited parking . . . finding parking spots in the area is pretty difficult with the amount of people coming in," Julian Rideiro, 20, said on the Upper East Side.

A Sanitation spokesperson defended the looming changes, saying, "We are moving forward with a plan to finally get the trash off the street, once and for all."

xserrano@nypost.com

GONE TOO SCHOONER

'Cousteau' eatery sinks in Brooklyn



UNDERWATER: The Pilot was turned into a bar and oyster restaurant and kept in Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 7 until last year.

Brigitte Stelzer for NY Post; Crew

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

As hundreds of historic vessels from across the globe sail into New York Harbor this week, one of New York's own mysteriously sank beneath Brooklyn waters.

The Pilot — a schooner-turned-restaurant once used by researcher Jacques Cousteau — buckled beneath the waves in the middle of the night Wednesday, sending bar stools, restaurant equipment and other debris into the Henry Street Basin near Red Hook.

'Nightmare'

Videos taken by kayakers show the giant masts of the 102-year-old former racing schooner sticking out of the surface and its wooden chairs floating in the mucky water nearby.

The historic boat's owner described the situation as a "nightmare."

"We are heartbroken to share that our beloved Pilot sank overnight at our maintenance location in Red Hook. At this time, we do not yet know the cause of the incident. Most importantly, no one was aboard and no one was harmed. We are deeply grateful for that," Alex Pincus, CEO of Crew, told the blog, South Brooklyn History. "Our immediate focus is on working with the appropriate professionals and authorities to understand what happened and determine the safest path to raise Pilot. We are devastated but remain hopeful that she can be salvaged."

The Pilot served as a popular bar and oyster restaurant at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 7 until last summer, when it was it replaced with the Fireboat, a retired 1960s FDNY boat-turned-bar owned by Crew.

LOST AT SEA: Barstools and other debris from the vessel are among the debris clogging the basin (right).

Crew; Instagram/bowerybird

Near landmark status

Crew, which owns numerous floating restaurants throughout the city, moored Pilot in the Henry Street Basin earlier this year for repairs, with kayakers noting that it appeared in "rough shape."

There "was really deteriorated wood along the side of the hull and in places. More so than I had ever really had a sense of last year when I was on it or near it," Brad Vogul, of the Gowanus Dredgers, told the blog.

The sinking comes just days before the largest flotilla of US and international ships are set to sail through the New York Harbor in honor of the US's 250th birthday. The aging ship was not set to participate.

It also comes as the Pilot is in the process of becoming a National Historic Landmark, according to Crew.

The ship was built in 1924 and is one of the two remaining racing schooners from the International Fisherman's Cup.

After its racing days, it served as a harbor pilot in Boston and, during World War II, was used by the Coast Guard to guide troop transport and supply ships in Boston Harbor.

She was also bought by a group that had dreams of circumnavigating the globe in the 1970s, but the crew only made it to Fiji before she was sold to researchers in the Galapagos — which is where Cousteau boarded the iconic vessel.

Bottle beef elder slugged

A goon punched an 81-year-old man in the face during a clash over a recycling machine in Queens this week, cops and sources said.

The brute — seen rolling a cart with two bulky black garbage bags — got into a spat with the senior over the receptacle at Elder and Kissena Avenues in Flushing around 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, authorities and sources said.

The maniac then punched the elderly man twice in the face, police said.

The octogenarian was taken to NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Police released photos of the trash-hauling bully, last seen wearing a white baseball cap, white T-shirt, light-colored shorts, sneakers and carrying a backpack.

Amanda Woods

'Assault & battery' at build site

A City Council pol claims one of his staffers was assaulted by contractors for a new lithium-ion battery facility in Queens.

Democratic Councilman Phil Wong called for an investigation after his staff member was allegedly assaulted twice this week at the construction site at 69th Place, near 65th Drive, in Middle Village.

"No contractor is above the law," he railed.

Wong claimed his staffer, Bernie Chow, 59, was allegedly shoved to the ground by the president of GA Industries — a contractor for the controversial storage site owned by NineDot Energy — on Wednesday.

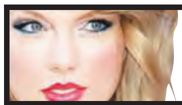
Chow had been filming the active job site as Department of Buildings workers were there to serve a "partial stop work order," the councilman's office said.

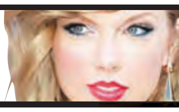
Chow returned the following day, and was allegedly shoved and tackled to the pavement by a different contractor at the site, in a shocking caught-on-video altercation, the councilman said.

The alleged attack left him with a head injury that he did not notice until about 20 minutes after authorities left. He then went to the hospital, where he was monitored overnight and has since been released, Wong's office said.

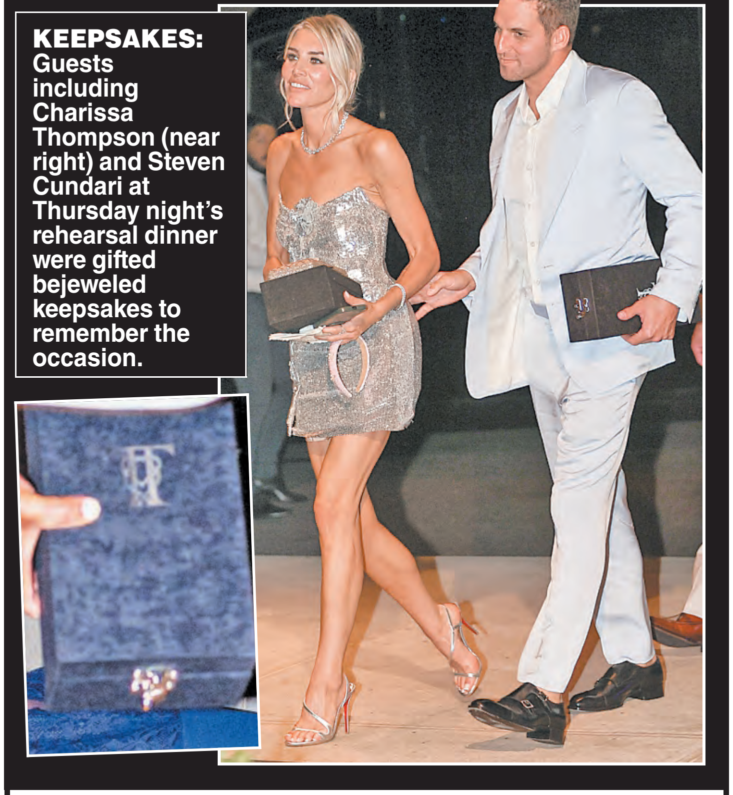
GA Industries and the DOB didn't return requests for comment.

Hannah Fierick





Diamond ‘swag’ger



KEEPSAKES: Guests including Charissa Thompson (near right) and Steven Cundari at Thursday night’s rehearsal dinner were gifted bejeweled keepsakes to remember the occasion.

By MARA SIEGLER
and MARIE POHL

No champagne problems here.

Guests of **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce** at Thursday night’s rehearsal dinner were given a bejeweled keepsake for the occasion.

A-list attendees were spotted leaving the festivities clutching black velvet boxes etched with the couple’s initials, as a source told Page Six they contain one large champagne flute adorned with diamonds.

We hear the boxes were presented with an image of what appeared to be the garden from the couple’s famed engagement photos printed on frayed fabric placed on top.

The fabric was wrapped around a commemorative card and fastened with an elegant silver wax seal.

Gigi Hadid, **Bradley Cooper**, **Selena Gomez**, **Lena Dunham**, longtime Swift collaborator **Jack Antonoff** and sister **Rachel** and **Ashley Avignone** were among the 100 people invited to the dinner at the Infosys Theater at MSG

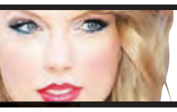
Also spotted were sports reporter **Erin Andrews** and her her former NHL-player husband **Jarret Stoll**, Swift’s longtime publicist **Tree Paine**, childhood best friend **Abigail Anderson**, Kelce’s manager **Amanda Santa**, his longtime friend **Reggie “Regrunt” King** and wife **Sarah**, and sports commentator **Charissa Thompson**.

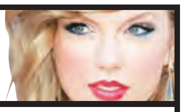
And fittingly, Swift’s wedding at the Garden appears to have a garden theme.

The flowers appeared to be large peach and pink toned blooms with greenery. MSG was lit up with pink lights.

On Friday, Page Six exclusively reported that an area of the arena has been set up as a forest, complete with trees and carpet that looks like grass.

‘Intimate’ A-list gu list





of 1,000 at Tay-Trav Garden party nups

SHE JUST SAID YES AT MSG

JUST&T MARRIED!
JUST&T MARRIED!
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
PENNSYLVANIA STATION

STARRY WEDDING NIGHT: Guests at the celeb-studded gala included (clockwise from above) Jimmy Fallon, Hugh Grant, Kelsea Ballerini, Karlie Kloss, Ed Sheeran, Benson Boone (circled), Dakota Johnson and Jason Sudeikis.

By ELANA FISHMAN
and MARA SIEGLER

It's a love story, baby, they said, "yes!"

Taylor Swift and **Travis Kelce** rung in their newlywed era Friday in a star-studded extravaganza held in The World's Most Famous Arena, Madison Square Garden.

One thousand of their closest pals — including **Gigi Hadid**, **Bradley Cooper**, **Mariska Hargitay and Selena Gomez** — descended on the iconic landmark in the scorching heat to watch the couple say, "I do."

MSG confirmed the nuptials a little before 7:30 p.m., lighting up giant pinks signs around the venue that read, "JUST&T MARRIED!"

The ceremony was officiated by actor and comedian **Adam Sandler**, who co-starred with Kelce in the 2025 movie "Happy Gilmore 2."

The couple opted not to have bridesmaids or groomsmen. Instead, Swift's brother, **Austin Swift**, served as the pop icon's Man of Honor and **Jason Kelce** was his brother's Best Man.

The bride and groom both wore Christian Dior Haute Couture for the ceremony.

Both looks were designed by the French fashion house's buzzy new creative director **Jonathan Anderson**, marking his first couture bridal gown for a major celebrity.

Swift's and Kelce's shoes were custom-made by Christian Louboutin, and the Grammy winner wore Cartier jewelry.

The big celebration kicked off one day after Swift and Kelce hosted an intimate rehearsal at the venue Thursday evening for about 100 of their nearest and dearest.

The Garden was transformed into an enchanted forest filled with lush greenery and blush-toned florals, outfitted with rosy drapes, and lit up in pink to celebrate pop music's reigning princess finally marrying her prince.

The couple's guests seemed at least partly in the dark, with their invites — watermarked, to ward off potential leaks — accompanied by strict NDAs.

Also unusual? While most couples create registries and honeymoon funds, Swift and Kelce told their guests to send "absolutely no gifts," according to San Francisco 49ers tight end **George Kittle**.

Instead of collecting checks, the couple wrote their own — $26 million worth, to be precise, to be distributed among 20 charities including the ASPCA, Education Through Music, three different children's hospitals and multiple food banks.

Eclectic mix of pals

In true Swiftian fashion, the entire affair had been shrouded in secrecy from the start, and the questions were endless. Who had scored invites? What designer (or designers) would the world's most talked-about bride wear on her big day? Was the wedding even actually happening at MSG?

Swift had promised to invite "anyone I've ever talked to," and it seems that wasn't hyperbole.

Fellow music icons **Paul McCartney**, **Kenny Chesney**, **Stevie Nicks** and Tim McGraw RSVP'd, with the latter two believed to have performed at the Friday party.

CALIF. WIRE WOE

Informant taints Dem Xav gov bid

By JOSH KOEHN

BUGGIN' OUT: The favorite to replace California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Xavier Becerra (at rear), is fending off the taint of scandal due to connections to federal informant Alexis Podesta (below).

AP; PattersonHUD

A Democrat insider who reportedly secretly wore an FBI wire to help take down Gavin Newsom's chief of staff is now a liability for Xavier Becerra, the Democratic frontrunner to become California's next governor.

The Post has learned Alexis Podesta, an informant in a sweeping public corruption case, is now the subject of multiple investigations by California's political watchdog the Fair Political Practices Commission — involving one of Becerra's political committees.

Podesta, 45, is also being investigated over an allegation she failed to disclose more than $1 million in lobbying income.

The investigations are raising new questions about the FBI's star cooperating witness and whether the scrutiny could become a distraction for Becerra's gubernatorial campaign.

The attorney for Dana Williamson, Newsom's disgraced former chief of staff, told The Post that Podesta secretly wore the wire during an expansive public corruption investigation. Williamson was Podesta's longtime mentor who pleaded guilty to federal tax and wire fraud charges in May.

Williamson handed much of her political consulting business to Podesta after joining Newsom's administration in late 2022, including work on Becerra's political campaigns.

Campaign records reveal Becerra maintained a political committee for a potential campaign for state superintendent of public instruction in 2030.

The Podesta Company was paid at least $170,000 in 2023 and 2024 for campaign consulting. At the time, Becerra was serving in Joe Biden's cabinet as secretary of Health and Human Services.

The payments show how closely Podesta remained tied to Becerra's political operation, with Williamson entrusting her with the numerous consulting accounts she had managed before joining Newsom's administration in January 2023.

According to federal prosecutors, Williamson directed dormant campaign committees to send roughly $10,000 a month to The Podesta Company under the guise of campaign consulting. Prosecutors allege Podesta's firm then routed the money through a company controlled by Greg Campbell, another lobbyist, before it was ultimately paid to the spouse of longtime Becerra political consultant, Sean McCluskie, for work prosecutors say was never performed.

Links to criminality

After Williamson was indicted last November, the FPPC initiated an investigation involving Becerra's political committee, Podesta, Williamson, Campbell, McCluskie and political consultant Robert Herrera. Campbell and McCluskie have also pleaded guilty to related federal corruption charges.

Podesta and her attorneys did not respond to requests for comment about her role in the FBI investigation, the state ethics investigations or the FPPC allegations.

Newsom's office rejected any suggestion that Podesta's cooperation with the FBI had anything to do with him. "There is no evidence that the alleged use of a wire on one of the FBI's informants is in any way connected to the governor," Newsom spokeswoman Tara Gallegos said in an email to The Post.

Becerra has not been accused of wrongdoing.

Lobbyist's pal among 11 prez pardons

President Trump signed 11 pardons Friday, including one for the convicted former business partner of infamous lobbyist Jack Abramoff, a White House official told The Post.

Adam Kidan was sentenced to 70 months in prison in 2006 after pleading guilty to conspiracy and fraud charges related to his attempt, along with Abramoff, to purchase SunCruz Casinos for $147.5 million with a counterfeit wire-transfer document.

Kidan, an entrepreneur, has since gone on to start multiple staffing companies and has become a major Republican donor.

The bulk of the pardons are for individuals convicted of tampering with emission-control systems on cars and trucks, including by selling "defeat devices" and "tuners" to maximize the engine power, in violation of the Clean Air Act.

"It is my Great Honor to have just signed Pardons for six people who were persecuted by the Biden Administration, and were in, or being sent to, prison, for 'fixing their car,' " the president wrote on Truth Social. "While I know this sounds ridiculous, it is nevertheless a fact, and part of the Weaponization and Stupidity that our Country had to endure during four long years of Sleepy Joe Biden.

"I AM SETTING THEM ALL FREE, RIGHT NOW!"

Kidan's pardon appears to be one of only two not related to environmental crimes.

Jack Harvard, who was convicted of bank-fraud charges in Texas in the 1980s and now runs the Texas Safari Ranch in Clifton, is the other.

Emily Goodin and Victor Nava

Deadlier Russian drones

Russia's attack Thursday on Kyiv was among the deadliest of the yearslong war, not just because the Kremlin targeted a residential area — Moscow has added new jet-powered drones to its arsenal that are incredibly challenging to shoot down.

The fairly new feature for Russian forces was deployed in an attack that killed at least 30 people — and are too fast for Ukraine's mobile fire groups to hit. They can only be stopped with ground-to-air missiles or fighter jets, CNN reported.

The drones can zip at 310 miles per hour and were first spotted causing wreckage near the start of the year.

"The enemy is using them more and more frequently, and the percentage of jet-powered Shaheds in their arsenal is increasing, which depletes [our] resources," said Ukrainian Air Force spokesperson Yurii Ihnat, according to CNN.

The drone addition is among the tactical and technological options Moscow has at its disposal to "maximize civilian harm during strikes on Ukraine," according to a US-based conflict monitor, CNN reported.

David Propper, Wires

Lightning death in Fla.

One person was killed and three others were injured when a group of Florida beachgoers was struck by lightning on Friday afternoon — with witnesses describing the terrifying moment as sounding like "an atomic bomb went off."

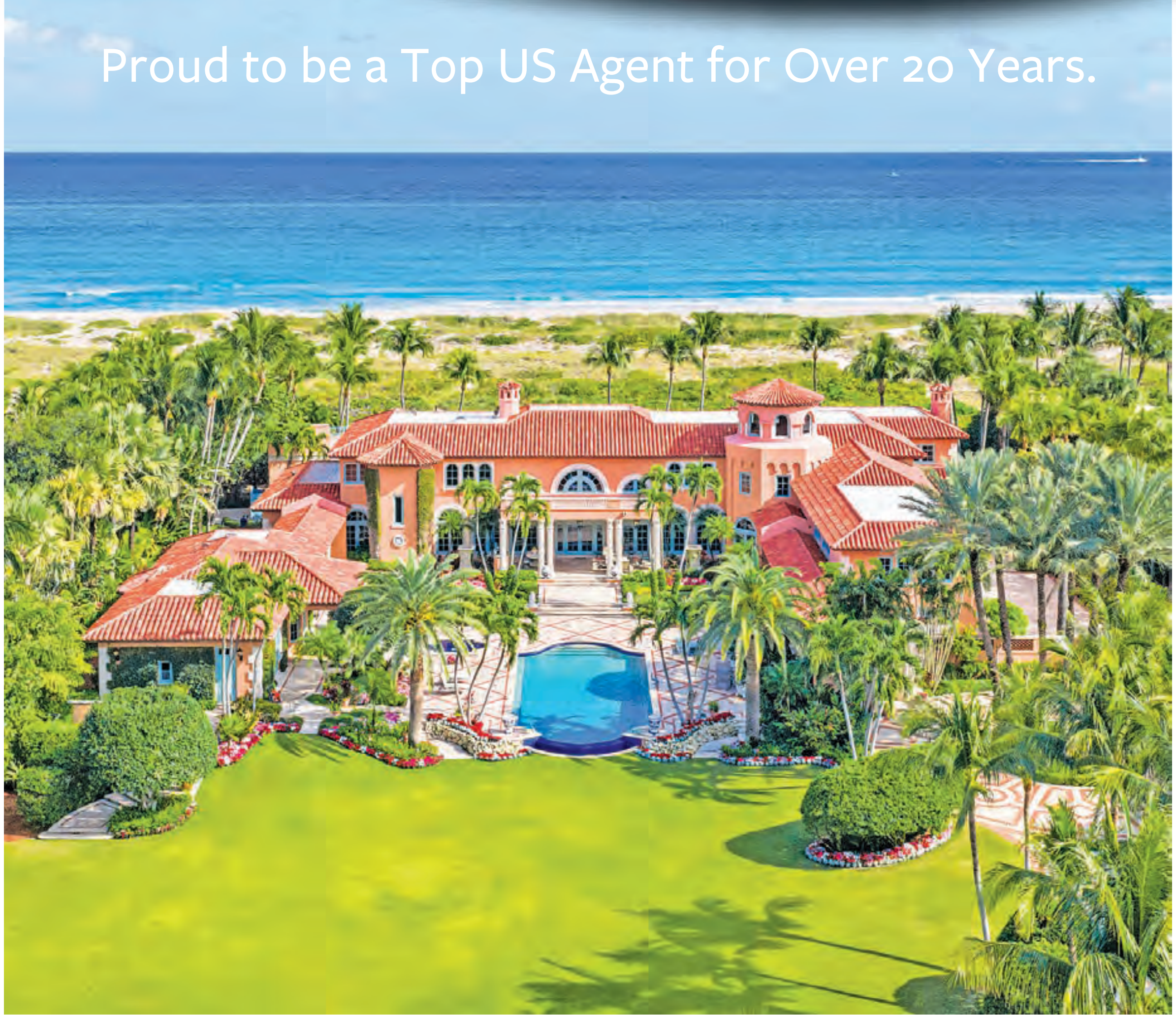
The summer revelers were zapped while swimming in the Gulf at Fort Myers Beach around 3 p.m., WINK News reported.

One swimmer, an unidentified man, was struck directly and died. Three other swimmers were injured and rushed to a hospital, according to Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Chief Scott Wirth. *Ella Morrison*

EST. 2006

CHRISTIAN ANGLE

REAL ESTATE



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Fog of war in the Hamptons

Page Six®

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HOLLYWOOD studio boss **Scott Stuber** and his wife, "Lipstick on the Rim" podcaster **Molly Sims**, are suing their ultra-luxury Hamptons and LA home designer, **Dan Scotti**, for $1.4 million, Page Six Hollywood has learned.

Stuber — the producer of films including "Ted" and last year's "Frankenstein" — and Sims claim Scotti fogged up their dreams of a custom-built Hamptons house with improperly installed windows in a case that's been tied up in Suffolk County, LI, court since 2024.

The power couple alleges in court papers that they hired Scotti — who'd previously worked on their Pacific Palisades home, as well as a prior East Hampton spread — for $1.25 million to "design and construct a single-family residence . . . with an attached guest house and associated improvements, including outdoor pool cabana, swimming pool, and sports court."

A 2022 Architectural Digest feature on the home was titled "Step Inside Molly Sims's Fully Customized Hamptons Beach House," and extensively quoted Scotti as well as Sims. It said the home "blends quintessential Hamptons shingle-style architecture with sleek modernism."

But behind the scenes, the couple's rosy view was less clear — literally. Court papers allege the home's windows were wrong and installed improperly via Scotti and a subcontractor, and in 2022, "plaintiff's property management company discovered condensation appearing on the inside frames of the windows."

The couple allege in court docs, via an LLC, that Scotti "acknowledged that 'condensation' has been forming on the bottoms of some of the window units," and that while he installed "dehumidifiers," "the condensation issues still persisted and persist." Stuber and Sims, who declined to comment, are suing for breach of contract, breach of warranty and negligence.

Scotti has filed third-party claims against the home's architect, a construction company and an installation company. He told us, "I proudly stand behind my work including those homes that have been featured in Architectural Digest."

Rare bird watching

CATHERINE Zeta-Jones and **Michael Douglas**' daughter, **Carys**, has made her stage debut in a Brooklyn production of "The Seagull." The staging of the Chekov classic is at St. Lydia's, "a queer-affirming dinner church" on Bond Street in Gowanus, which is a sentence that no doubt makes sense in Brooklyn. It's a somewhat experimental production by Solid Flesh which "will span two environments: the first half of the play will take place outdoors in the open air, before the audience is transitioned indoors into the intimate St. Lydia's space for the second half." Carys is one of two kids Douglas has with Zeta-Jones. He also has another son, **Cameron**, from a previous marriage.

Weird but truly Al

DON'T expect Weird AI Yankovic. Parody king **Weird Al** (above) says he turned down a load of cash to do an AI commercial, because he doesn't like the technology. "I'm not going to mention any names," he told Syracuse.com, "but they told me . . . it was business software that would increase productivity. And they offered me a nice pile of money. I said, 'Oh well, yeah, sure, I could do that.' And then a week before we're supposed to shoot it, I find out, oh, this is, it's AI. And I thought, 'Oh no, I can't be the poster boy for AI, forget it.'" He added that he's "not a fan of AI."

She's getting her bread the old-fashioned way. Superstar Rihanna mingled with the commoners for a grocery store run at Beverly Hills' Bristol Farms.

@HeadToToeCelebs/BACKGRID

'Bear' star had sweet-as-honey crush

MONK the hunk! "The Bear" star **Ayo Edebiri** said her first childhood crush was **Tony Shalhoub** as the OCD-suffering detective Adrian Monk in "Monk." Appearing on GQ's "Friendship Quiz" with her "Bear" co-star **Jeremy Allen White**, Edebiri, 30, explained her affection for the actor, who's 42 years older than her, by saying, "I probably was just a young child who didn't know she was neurotic yet," and so identified with his hang-ups. She clarified the crush was "specific to Monk," as opposed to Shalhoub in general. She added she eventually met Shalhoub and his wife, **Brooke Adams**. "Actually, the first time we met — this is so embarrassing — I was, like, verklempt," she said. "He was like, 'This is my wife, Brooke Adams.'" She added, "I was like, 'No, for sure.' And respect to the union."

A Humungus loss

SWEDISH actor and Olympic-class weightlifter Kjell Nilsson, who was best known for playing Lord Humungus in "Mad Max 2," has died. He was 76. Nilsson "passed away peacefully in his sleep" at home in Queensland, Australia, on Thursday after a four-and-a-half year battle with kidney disease, his family wrote in a Facebook post. "It was a long and painful journey," said the family, which includes his five sons. Nilsson decided to stop dialysis on Sunday "to take back control over his pain and his body." His final days "were filled with joy, gratitude, peace, and acceptance. He did it his way." Nilsson moved from Sweden to Australia to train athletes for the 1980 Moscow Olympics before appearing in **George Miller**'s 1981 "Mad Max" sequel.

Winning Formula

LEWIS Hamilton is a "happier man" because of **Kim Kardashian**. The English racing driver (above) gave her a rare shout-out Thursday at Silverstone Circuit ahead of the British Grand Prix, as seen in footage obtained by the Daily Mail. Hamilton, 41, stood next to fellow Formula One stars **Oliver Bearman**, **Lando Norris**, **Arvid Lindblad** and **George Russell** as a fan asked, "You've been a happier man recently. Why's that? Could that be a girlfriend?" He replied, "Yeah, that's a good one!" as broadcaster **David Croft** interjected, "You know why he's asking? He just needs to know if **Kimi** [**Antonelli**] needs two towels or not!" (Kardashian, 45, accidentally used the Mercedes driver's towel at last month's Monaco Grand Prix.) Hamilton praised his Ferrari team and added, "And of course, of course — Kim."

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Kate Hudson looks like a Greek goddess while kissing fiancé **Danny Fujikawa** on their vacation in Skiathos, Greece.

Greek Boy/BACKGRID

Couple Parding ways

THE Pardis: over! Country hitmaker **Jon Pardi** and wife **Summer Pardi** have split after five years of marriage. They have two daughters: **Presley Fawn**, 3, and **Sienna Grace**, 2. "After much thought, we have made the difficult decision to end our marriage," the pair wrote in a joint Instagram post. "Our daughters will always remain our highest priority and we are committed to moving forward with love and respect as co-parents." They added, "Thank you so much for your understanding, support, and respect as we navigate these changes as a family." Pardi is behind the country smashes "Dirt on My Boots" and "Heartache on the Dance Floor." Pardi of one!

Each other's 'Star'

MADONNA and daughter **Lourdes** "Lola" **Leon** sing about how living in the spotlight affected their turbulent relationship in their new song, "The Test." "Little star / I tried to put you on a pedestal / You didn't ask for all the flashing lights / I didn't think of how it could disturb," Madonna sings in the first verse. In the chorus, the pair mention 29-year-old Leon being in her famous mom's shadow. But in the second verse, Leon expresses her love for Madonna. "A hand tenderly reaching to me / You are my reason to be," Leon sings. "The Test" is the 15th track off Madonna's new album, "Confessions II," out now.

Maren Morris is totally *cut out* for singing her hits on the "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza.

John Nacion/Getty Images

U-turn on wheel fear

SHE'S ready to go Cruzing. **Penélope Cruz** said she's "thinking about" finally learning how to drive — after **Bono** gave her a car. The star, 52, told "Hot Ones" host **Sean Evans** that she has a "very deep fear of driving." But "my friend Bono gave me a car for my last birthday," she said, and "that is like the ultimate push to do it." She said, "After you get a car from Bono you don't get your license? How crazy is that? So now I'm thinking about it again, but it's such a deep fear. Every time I get in a car, I feel like, 'OK, here we go. Are we going to make it or not?'" She's previously explained her phobia, saying her sister was hit by a car right in front of her when she was 8. Her sister recovered completely. But "it's a great trauma because I saw her losing consciousness." Cruz said she's been working on the fear in therapy.

Over-the-line delivery

ANNE Hathaway dropped out of "Knocked Up" because the graphic birthing scene "was not her brand," says **Seth Rogen**. On "The A24 Podcast," his "The Invite" director **Olivia Wilde** asked him if Hathaway left "because of the crowning," referring to the film's comically realistic depiction of childbirth. "That was what I remember being told," Rogen said. "Crowning is a tough one."

More celebrity photos at PageSix.com

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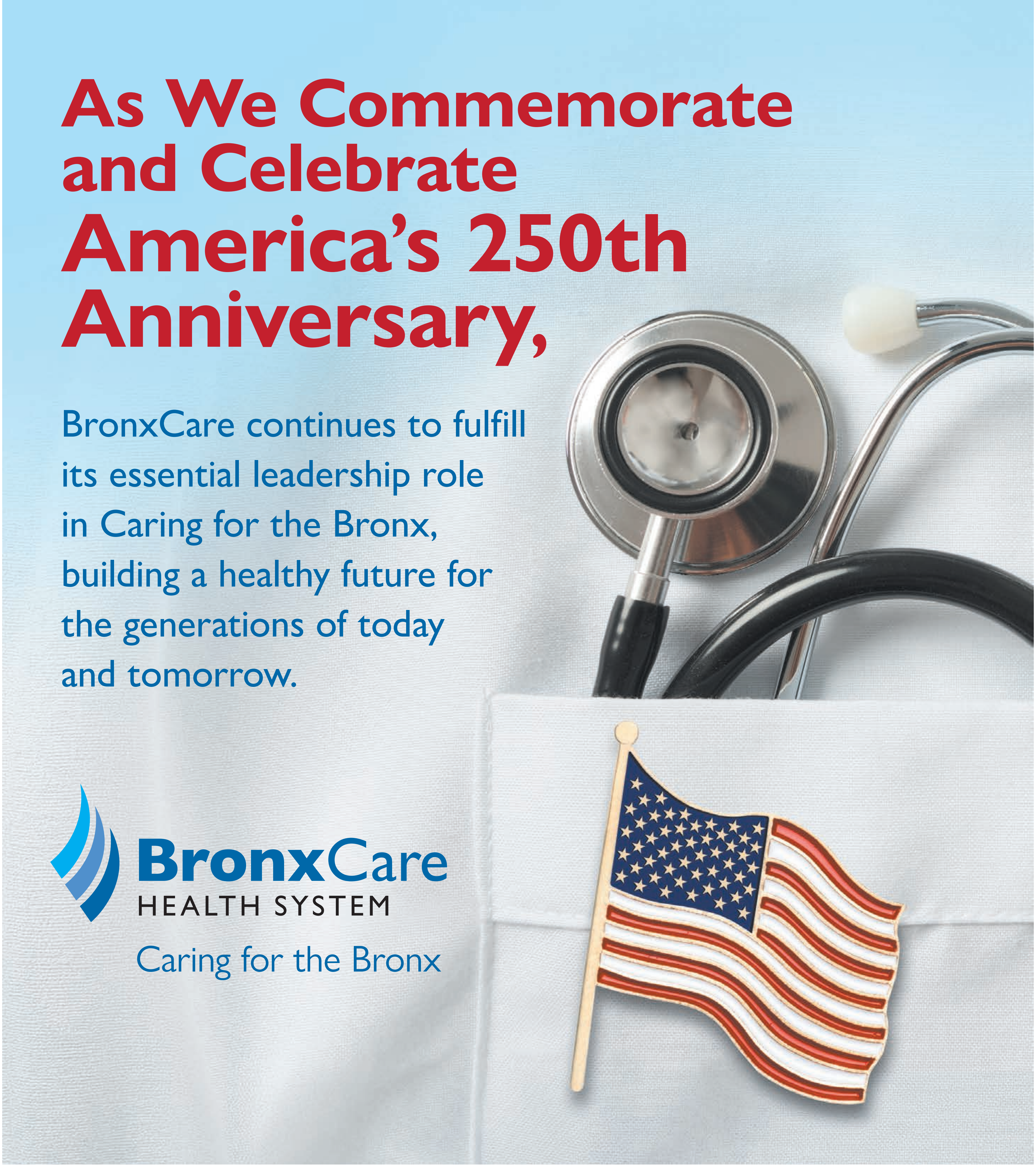

As We Commemorate and Celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary,

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BlackRock is backing the future

Today’s tech boom could eliminate jobs. This Wall Street firm wants to make it generate careers

By LYDIA MOYNIHAN

BLACKROCK is best known as a financial behemoth managing trillions in assets. But now the world’s largest money manager is making a different kind of bet: one on the future of American workers.

The company’s new Future Builders initiative will deploy $100 million over the next five years to help train and place 50,000 skilled trade workers at a time when America is racing to scale the energy infrastructure needed to power the AI boom.

“What better way to celebrate America’s 250th than to honor the men and women who actually built the country, and those who are actually going to build the infrastructure on which we all rely?” said John Kelly, BlackRock’s global head of corporate affairs.

The program, launched last month through the company’s philanthropic arm, targets electricians, welders, plumbers, HVAC technicians and wiremen — all professions facing dramatic shortages.

Investing in people

AMERICANS ROCK: BlackRock exec John Kelly (right) wants to position workers to help the US compete globally.

“There’s a real urgent need in the United States to build the infrastructure that is necessary . . . to compete in technology, and especially to become energy resilient.” Kelly said. “These are good-paying jobs . . . These are sophisticated, highly trained individuals that are currently building the infrastructure. We just need a lot more of them.”

The investment, which comes amid widespread anxiety that AI will eliminate positions, helps create a new narrative: that the next phase of American growth will still depend on human workers with hard skills.

BlackRock co-founder and CEO Larry Fink has estimated that America should plan to spend $10 trillion on data centers and the energy infrastructure needed to power AI in the coming years.

That creates demand for not just capital, but for people.

“In order for the infrastructure that the United States needs to be built to become energy resilient, we need these skilled trades,” Kelly said. “We’re investing in both the projects but also the people.”

BlackRock is not attempting to run training programs itself. Instead, the company is partnering with existing organizations that already have track records in training and placing workers, and using its funding to help scale those efforts.

“We’re not experts on training people. We’re experts in investing,” Kelly said. “We are partnering with organizations that are currently already doing this right.”

He added that BlackRock wants to help workers build long-term financial security once they are trained, certified and placed in jobs.

“We want to celebrate these people because these are hardworking Americans who are independent, who are financially secure and who are building the future of the country,” Kelly said.

The initiative is also part of a broader push to mobilize corporate America around skilled trades. BlackRock is partnering with major companies including Walmart, Home Depot, Carhartt, Google and Meta to support the effort.

For BlackRock, the pitch is also personal. The firm, founded in 1988 by eight partners, has grown into the world’s largest asset manager, overseeing more than $14 trillion in assets and managing retirement funds for millions of Americans.

“We’re optimists,” Kelly said. “BlackRock [is] an American success story ourselves . . . Eight founders who built this extraordinary fiduciary out of nothing.”

Kelly framed the effort as an extension of BlackRock’s broader role helping American workers build long-term financial security.

Geopolitical wins

“This is BlackRock’s role and purpose, which is to help ... 35 million American men and women working hard to help them invest better, to live better and to retire with dignity,” Kelly said. “And we’ve done that with police officers, with firefighters, nurses and teachers, and now doing that with skilled trades.”

Kelly said the effort is not just about job training, but about whether America can move quickly enough to build the infrastructure required to compete.

“We’re in a race geopolitically,” he said. “We have to move quickly as a country.”

Still, he said he remains optimistic.

“America has always risen to the occasion,” Kelly said. “We know how to mobilize and we know how to work hard.”

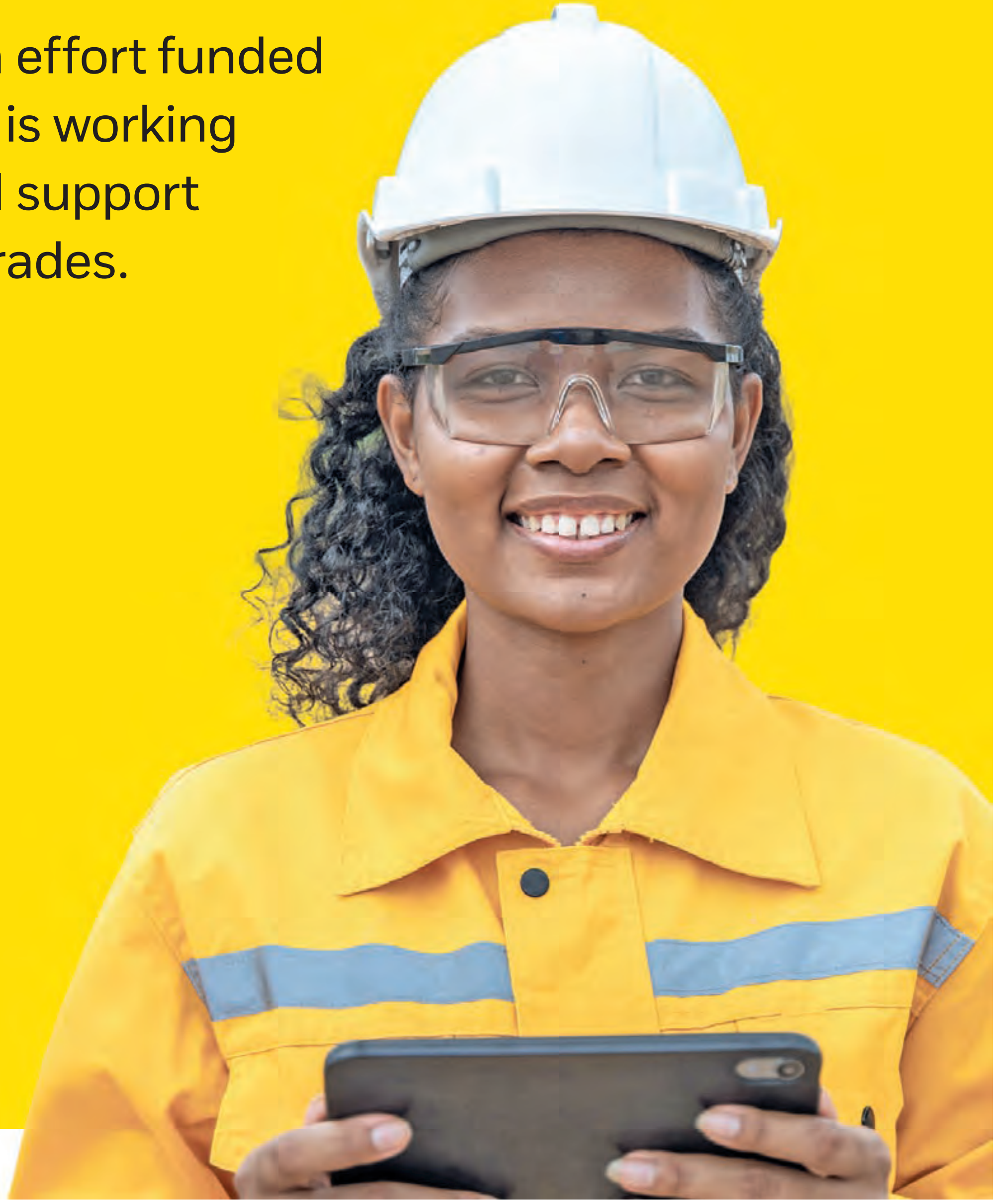
Emmy Park for NY Post

Powering the next generation of American workers.

Future Builders, a $100 million effort funded by The BlackRock Foundation, is working alongside partners to train and support 50,000 workers in the skilled trades.

BlackRock

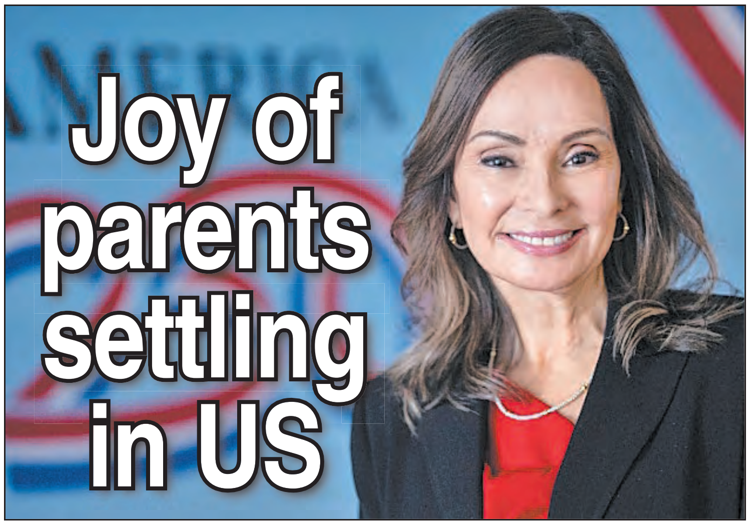
Future Builders



‘Feeling of gratitude’

American Dreamers

In recent weeks, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, has been featuring US citizens explaining what the American dream means to them in 2026. Our final dreamer this July Fourth is Rosie Rios, the Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and former treasurer of the US.



Joy of parents settling in US

CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images

I remember the American Bicentennial like it was yesterday. I was 11 years old in Hayward, Calif. I remember learning all the patriotic songs in school . . . I remember seeing on our black-and-white TV, the tall ships coming through the New York harbor. I really remember July 4, 1976. It was a cloudy night, [and] those fireworks — for someone who was raised in poverty, the way we were — my goodness.

It wasn’t an event. It was a feeling. It was a feeling of gratitude that my parents chose to move to this country. I just loved my country, and I still do. That has never been a question in my mind, the fortune of being born and raised here . . .

My parents came from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in 1958 to California.

My father was abusive, and, at some point, after having nine kids, [my mom] decided to leave him . . . She could’ve taken all of us back to Mexico, but she made the deliberate decision to raise us all in the US. And thankfully she did.

I worked full-time in high school. I would get out of school at 2:15. I would race over to the [Alameda County Library] headquarters [and work there] until around 9:15. I would race home and change, get ready for bed, eat dinner, and then start my homework at 10 p.m., every night, [and study] until 1 a.m.

Same schedule

That schedule’s still ingrained in my head, which is probably not very healthy. But that is still my schedule to this day [and] I do think that that’s what got me into Harvard.

I am the American dream. My mom is the American dream. My kids are the American dream. I think the American dream is best personified by case studies, by people who came from nothing.

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. For more information, visit mcaad.org.

Gruesome death roll by gator

The alligator that killed Florida hiker Brittany Clark clamped onto her arm and launched into a “death roll” before her boyfriend wrestled her from its jaws and dragged her to the shore, according to a medical report.

Clark was swimming in the Econlockhatchee River Sunday when a 13-foot gator chomped down on her arm and twisted into a “death roll” — the spinning attack used to drown or tear apart prey, the medical examiner’s report obtained by the Palm Beach Post said.

The 31-year-old’s boyfriend, Chance Allison, rushed to wrestle the reptile off his girlfriend, but the alligator dragged them both beneath the water, the report said.

Clark was briefly freed before the gator latched onto her other arm and it wasn’t until Allison hauled them both to shore that the beast released her, the report said. *Anna Young*

Post Weather Report

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Saturday

Today: Hot, humid; a heavy t-storm in the p.m.. High 93 to 99.

Tonight: Humid; a heavy t-storm early. Low 72 to 78.

Sunday

Tomorrow: An afternoon t-storm; not as hot. High 81 to 87.

Tomorrow night: A shower and t-storm; humid. Low 67 to 73.

Monday

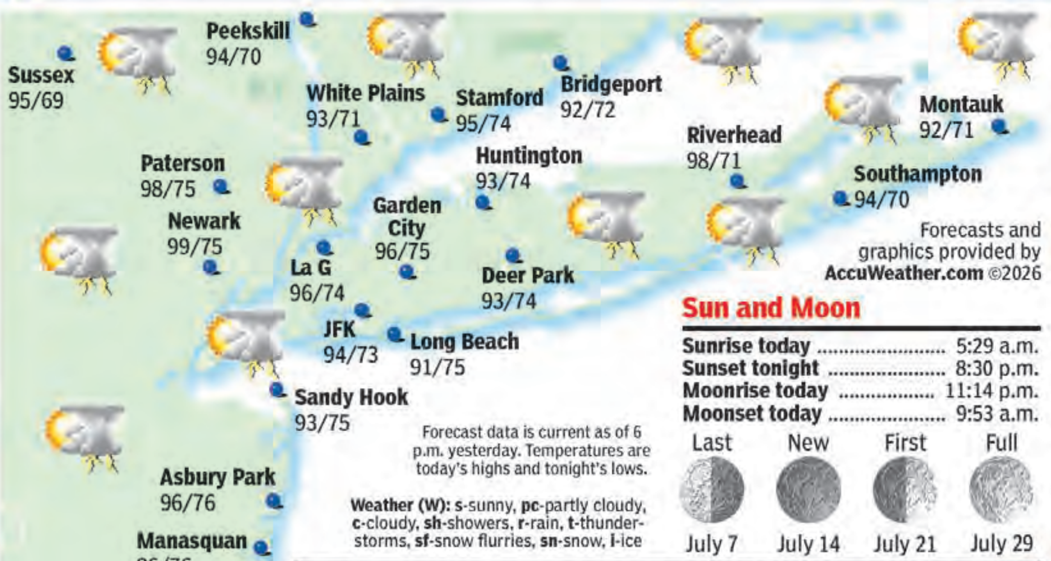
T-storms. High 74 to 80.

Evening
Evening showers. Low 65 to 71.

Tuesday

A shower or two. High 74 to 80.

Evening
Cloudy. Low 64 to 70.


Sussex
95/69
Peekskill
94/70
White Plains
93/71
Stamford
95/74
Bridgeport
92/72
Riverhead
98/71
Montauk
92/71
Paterson
98/75
Huntington
93/74
Southampton
94/70
Newark
99/75
Garden City
96/75
La G
96/74
Deer Park
93/74
JFK
94/73
Long Beach
91/75
Sandy Hook
93/75
Asbury Park
96/76
Manasquan
96/76
Toms River
100/75
Long Beach
96/75
Atlantic City
100/75
Ocean City
96/75

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Almanac

YESTERDAY’S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

Temperature
High: 98, Low: 84, Mean: 91

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +14 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.00",
Year: 17.82", Normal year to date: 24.09"

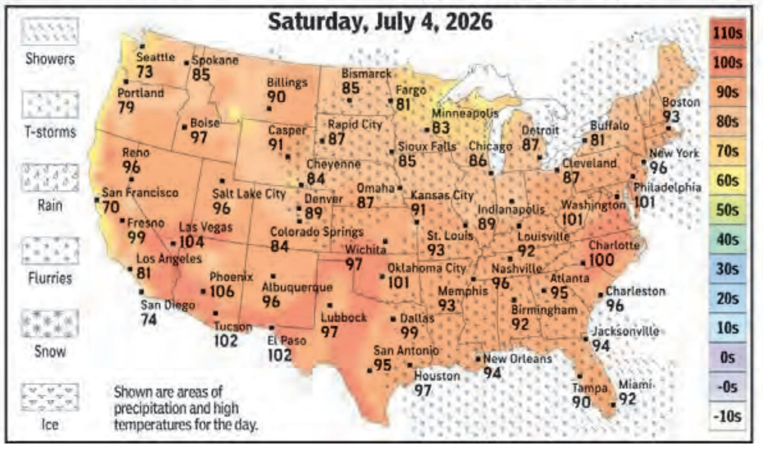
Cooling Degree days yesterday 26
Total for the month (normal) 71 (35)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 471 (343)
Last year to date 372
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 107
UV index (for Sat.) .... 11 (Extreme)
Humidity (at noon) 47%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sat.) ....Moderate

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:29 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:30 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 11:14 p.m.
Moonset today .... 9:53 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
July 7	July 14	July 21	July 29


Saturday, July 4, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 73
Spokane 85
Portland 79
Billings 90
Bismarck 85
Fargo 81
Minneapolis 83
Boise 97
Casper 91
Rapid City 87
Sioux Falls 85
Chicago 86
Detroit 87
Buffalo 81
Boston 93
Reno 96
Cheyenne 84
Omaha 87
Cleveland 87
New York 96
San Francisco 70
Salt Lake City 96
Denver 89
Kansas City 91
Indianapolis 89
Washington 101
Philadelphia 101
Fresno 99
Las Vegas 104
Colorado Springs 84
St. Louis 93
Louisville 92
Wichita 97
Charlotte 100
Los Angeles 81
Phoenix 106
Albuquerque 96
Oklahoma City 101
Nashville 96
Atlanta 95
Memphis 93
Charleston 96
San Diego 74
Tucson 102
El Paso 102
Lubbock 97
Dallas 99
Birmingham 92
Jacksonville 94
San Antonio 95
Houston 97
New Orleans 94
Tampa 90
Miami 92
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	11:28a	11:28p	12:12p	---
Fire Island	11:32a	11:50p	12:21p	---
Hempstead	2:26a	2:57p	3:11a	3:41p
Huntington	2:38a	3:08p	3:22a	3:51p
Jones Inlet	11:12a	11:12p	11:56a	11:59p
Montauk Point	12:28a	1:17p	1:08a	1:59p
Port Washington	2:23a	2:53p	3:07a	3:37p
Sandy Hook	11:32a	11:32p	12:16p	---

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	95/65/t	83/65/c
Danbury	95/69/t	82/66/c
Glens Falls	87/58/t	85/61/c
Gr Barrington	90/64/t	83/60/c
Kingston	95/68/t	84/67/c
Liberty	88/64/t	77/62/c
Monticello	88/65/t	80/62/c
Newburgh	94/70/t	82/68/c
Poughkeepsie	94/68/t	83/67/c
Saratoga Springs	90/60/t	85/62/c
Stroudsburg	94/68/t	80/65/t
Torrington	92/67/t	81/63/pc
Syracuse	84/65/t	83/66/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	90/75/t	89/71/s
Baghdad	111/84/pc	113/87/s
Beijing	94/72/pc	85/69/t
Berlin	68/59/c	75/56/pc
Cairo	97/76/pc	97/79/pc
Dublin	70/59/c	70/57/c
Geneva	87/56/s	90/59/s
Hong Kong	88/83/t	89/83/t
Jerusalem	83/71/s	84/69/s
Kabul	88/70/pc	92/70/pc
London	84/62/s	85/61/s
Madrid	103/73/s	102/75/s
Mexico City	76/57/r	74/58/r
Montreal	84/62/pc	83/63/pc
Moscow	68/59/sh	71/56/r
Paris	87/62/s	87/60/s
Rio de Janeiro	73/67/sh	72/66/c
Rome	91/69/s	89/67/s
Sydney	65/54/s	61/57/sh
Tokyo	82/71/c	79/71/r

U. GENDER BENDERS

Bathroom 'trans'formation

By RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — Twelve top colleges and universities across the US — including Columbia University in Manhattan — are expanding the number of all-gender facilities on their campuses amid the ongoing debate over transgenderism, a conservative advocacy group has found.

The all-gender designation opens intimate spaces like bathrooms and locker rooms to anyone regardless of their biological sex, warned Critical Race Training in Education, an offshoot of nonprofit Legal Insurrection.

"Our research continues to reveal the depravity and institutional capture of higher education," CriticalRace.org managing editor Kemberlee Kaye told The Post.

'No safe space'

"These are no longer places where ideas are debated, where intellectual furtherance exists; instead, they're dangerous and hostile to the point that women are not guaranteed single-sex safe spaces to shower or use the facilities."

The study singles out five Ivy League schools — Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth and the University of Pennsylvania — along with UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Polytechnic Humboldt, Carnegie Mellon, Florida State, Stanford, Stony Brook and Villanova.

Some of the schools named and shamed by CriticalRace.org boast more than 50 all-gender facilities on campus, and make clear that they are open to transgender and non-binary individuals.

Stanford, for example, has opted to "designate multi-stall restrooms with enhanced privacy features as gender-inclusive restrooms."

The study raised safety concerns about not designating female facilities exclusively for biological women, citing a 2023 study by the Correctional Service of Canada that found 44% of transgender female inmates had convictions for sex-related offenses.

"No woman should be forced to change in front of a man — this is not and should not be controversial," Kaye added.

Legal Insurrection founder William Jacobson, a professor at Cornell Law School, hinted the colleges could face complaints over the all-gender facilities and even a loss of federal funding.

'Being invaded'

"No decision has been made, but certainly we are investigating potential Title IX violations," Jacobson told The Post. "This raises significant Title IX issues and possible violations, particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court interpretation of Title IX regarding boys in girls' sports. 'Gender identity' does not override female rights as a matter of federal law.

"Female spaces are being invaded in the cause of gender identity."

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court upheld state-level restrictions on biological males competing in girls' sports even if they are transgender.

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, schools are bared from getting federal funds if they discriminate on the basis of sex.

rking@nypost.com

Hopes 'rai$ed' for pols

WASHINGTON — Federal lawmakers could get thousands in back pay — and a big salary increase — if a long-running lawsuit is decided in their favor, putting taxpayers on the hook for millions of dollars.

A group of current and former members of Congress won a major victory last month when a federal court ruled their case to boost congressional pay could go forward.

The plaintiffs charge that when Congress repeatedly canceled cost-of-living adjustments in their salary by voting to repeal a 1989 law meant to keep member salaries apace with inflation, it violated the 27th Amendment.

If the judiciary agrees, taxpayers will have to pay at least $69 million to make lawmakers whole, according to an estimate by the National Taxpayers Union.

Publicly sensitive to being seen as self-dealing, legislators have kept their annual pay fixed at $174,000 for nearly two decades. But behind the scenes, there have been grumbles about the stagnant salaries.

"Seventeen years, I have gotten people from my side and people from the other side saying, 'Can't we fix this?' " Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), a former House majority leader and one of the plaintiffs in the case, said at a hearing last month.

Emily Goodin

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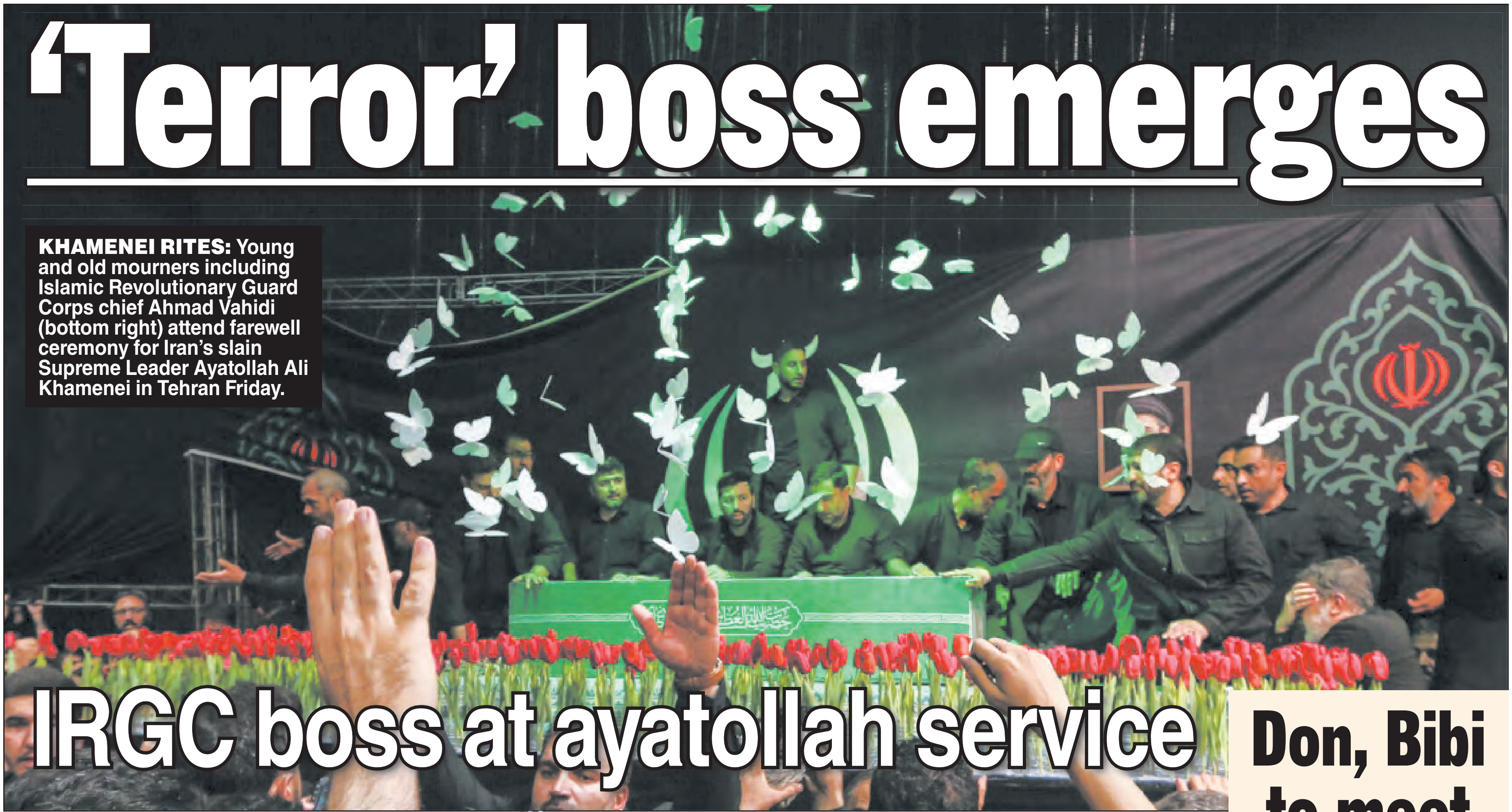
‘Terror’ boss emerges



KHAMENEI RITES: Young and old mourners including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief Ahmad Vahidi (bottom right) attend farewell ceremony for Iran’s slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran Friday.

ZUMAPRESS.com

IRGC boss at ayatollah service

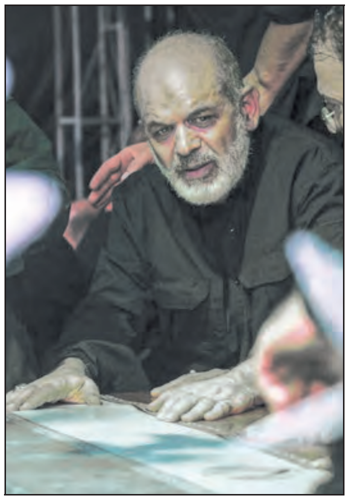
By CHRIS BRADFORD
and CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Iran’s shadowy Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief emerged from hiding for the first time in months as he mourned alongside the casket of the assassinated former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Gen. Ahmad Vahidi — who has been sanctioned by the US and has alleged ties to terrorism abroad — was seen Thursday with his hands on Khamenei’s coffin as Tehran prepared to hold the days-long funeral for the late tyrant, according to photos published online by Iranian state media.

Notably absent from the ceremonies was current Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen or heard from since the Feb. 28 strike that killed his father, wife and child — with reports indicating the younger Khamenei was seriously injured or even disfigured.

The Post reported back in March that US intelligence assessed Mojtaba Khamenei as “probably gay” and briefed President Trump to that effect.



Vahidi broke cover when he attended a small service before Iran begins its 40 days of national mourning on Saturday. He had not been seen publicly since Feb. 8 — three weeks before Ayatollah Khamenei and several IRGC officials, including Vahidi’s predecessor, Mohammad Pakpour, were killed on Feb. 28, the first day of Operation Epic Fury.

Behind the scenes, Vahidi — wanted by Interpol over the 1994 bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina Jewish community center in Buenos Aires — has been a key player crafting the Islamic Republic’s hardline response toward ending the four-month-old conflict. He is said to be part of a small clique influencing the severely injured Mojtaba Khamenei.

“He is influential but part of a system,” Ali Vaez, the Iran project director at the International Crisis Group, told CNN. “Decisions are made in a consensual manner and undoubtedly Vahidi has a very loud voice in the room.”

“You cannot agree on something without passing him,” added Danny Citrinowicz, the ex-head of the Iran branch of Israel’s military intelligence.

Vahidi, 67, joined the IRGC after the 1979 Revolution before becoming commander of Iran’s elite Quds Force in the late 1980s, helping lay the groundwork for Iran’s terror proxies abroad, including Hezbollah in Lebanon. Interpol issued a red notice against him, and Argentine investigators have also linked him to the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. US investigators suspect he helped organize the 1996 Khobar Tower bombing in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 service members.

While Vahidi mourned publicly, Iran’s senior leadership — including chief negotiators Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi — were also seen visiting Khamenei’s body, whose casket was painted like the Iranian flag and placed on a stage framed by blue Persian tiling. Ghalibaf was spotted melodramatically weeping, bawling into his open palms, while Araghchi stoically stared at the ground next to him.

Representatives from dozens of countries — including China, Russia, Lebanon and Pakistan — attended, with roughly 100 expected across events scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Monday. The display drew swift condemnation.

“Anyone who mourns Khamenei is pretty sick in the head,” said Foundation for Defending Democracies senior advisor Richard Goldberg on X. “Attendance at his funeral is a low point for those who went.”

Don, Bibi to meet in the US

President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Friday and agreed to meet in the US “in the near future,” according to the latter’s office.

Netanyahu has not been to Washington since the US and Israel launched their war on Iran on Feb. 28.

The seemingly amicable call came after tensions between the two reached new heights in recent weeks as Trump pushed for diplomacy with Iran and demanded Israel refrain from attacking Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has since signed a tri-lateral agreement with Lebanon and the US on June 26.

Major frustrations between the two have quelled — at least publicly. An Israeli official on Friday told The Post the US-Israel relationship remains strong despite the earlier friction.

The White House did not immediately publish a readout of the call or respond to a request for comment on Friday. *Caitlin Doornbos*

Woman ‘bomber’ dude duds

The fugitive being hunted for the Monaco bombing that injured a sanctioned Ukrainian oligarch and the woman he was with was identified Friday as a Ukrainian national who disguised herself as a man.

Anastasiia Berezovska, 39, is accused of targeting Ukrainian businessman Vadym Yermolaiev, 58, when she detonated a makeshift bomb that went off at the entrance of his building in Monaco on Monday night.

Interpol issued a “red notice” for Berezovska’s arrest on charges of attempted murder, placing an explosive device in a public place with criminal intent, and criminal conspiracy.

She has a snake-like tattoo on her arm that stretches from her shoulder to the elbow, Interpol says.

The Ukrainian native “is known for her links with organized crime,” Le Parisien reported.

Berezovska was identified as the suspect Friday after cops initially believed a man, who was seen wearing a bucket hat, had carried out the attack.

“This person is likely to disguise themselves in such a way as to appear as a man,” according to a police memo seen by BFM.

Chris Bradford, Wires

‘Karmic’ end in Ala. killing

The suspected murderer who dropped dead while trying to dump his girlfriend’s body in the woods in Alabama got a well-deserved dose of karmic retribution, according to the victim’s brother and the local sheriff.

Daniel Robbins, 44, was found dead last month in a wooded area in Chambers County beside the body of Jessica Folds, 47, with autopsies later showing he appeared to drop dead from a heart attack while dragging the body of the mother of three, who had been strangled. *Chris Nesi*

Tight on, Brooks!

Brooks Nader is fashionably ab fab in tight polka-dotted high-waist shorts and top Thursday as she strolls the luxury boutiques of Venice, Italy. The rising model and TV personality is taking a summer holiday break with her equally glamorous siblings and friends in Europe.

COBRA TEAM / BACKGRID

NOW GET ‘REAL’ OR EL$E!

Steep ‘no ID’ hit

By ALLISON LAX

For summer travelers braving this record-breaking heatwave to take holiday trips and vacations, not having a REAL ID will add a penalty fee to your expenses.

At $45, the fee is now more than double the original $18 charge.

The requirement to use a REAL ID — a standardized form of state identification — in order to fly domestically was enforced by the Transportation Security Administration in May 2025. The REAL ID Act was signed 20 years ago in May 2005, but it took two decades to take effect on a national level.

When the rule was first enforced, the TSA would charge non-carrying passengers an $18 fee for “government-incurred costs” to use a “modernized alternative identification verification system,” coined TSA ConfirmID, for a 10-day travel period.

Uptick in price

A published notice for the announcement shown on the Federal Register read, “This modernized program provides an alternative that may allow these individuals to gain access to the sterile area of an airport if TSA is able to establish their identity.”

However, the TSA made a 2025 announcement that they would be raising the fee to $45 — a $27 increase — which went into effect on Feb. 1 of this year.

The uptick in price came about after the agency found that the new technology expenses and operational costs were higher than projected, per senior TSA officials.

10-15 minutes

Customers who do not have a REAL ID must get out of the physical airport queue and go online to the government website, where they can complete the necessary identification steps and pay the nonrefundable add-on cost, after which they will receive email confirmation of their payment.

The process typically lasts from 10-15 minutes, but can take up to a hair-pulling half hour.

And, if the TSA is ultimately unable to confirm a passenger’s identity, they will not be allowed to fly.

The ultimate goal? Getting travelers to their destinations safe and sound.

“Identity verification is essential to traveler safety, because it keeps terrorists, criminals and illegal aliens out of the skies and other domestic transportation systems such as rail,” Adam Stahl, a senior official of the TSA, told Fox News.

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Somali flag is stolen

A Somali flag that was raised outside of Buffalo's City Hall to commemorate Somali Independence Day was stolen in an overnight heist, the city's leftist mayor decried.

"The City of Buffalo's flagpole in Niagara Square sustained damage after unknown vandals broke the access panel, cut the cable, and removed the Somali flag during the overnight hours of Wednesday," Mayor Sean Ryan wrote on Facebook.

Ryan said the Buffalo Police Department was investigating the alleged vandalism after the city approved non-profit HEAL International to raise the blue flag with a white star on July 1.

"The flag had been raised by an organization called Heal International in honor of Somalian Independence Day. Heal International has been raising the Somali flag at Niagara Square for at least the last four years," Ryan said.

The mayor's office said the "public use" flagpoles have flown banners of several countries and territories over the years, including Ukraine, Greece, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Italy and Bangladesh. Somali Bantu refugees have settled in Buffalo since 2003, according to the state Assembly.

Nicholas McEntyre

PB&Jerk at airport

Now he's in a jam.

A tasteless traveler was busted with a live grenade hidden inside a full jar of peanut butter at an airport in Indiana, authorities said Friday.

The nutty plan bombed when the man tried to sneak two live smoke grenades into his luggage — including one hidden inside the creamy snack — at the Indianapolis airport last month, according to the TSA.

The situation came to light when security officials flagged his bag, TSA specialist Michael Dunphy said. The TSA didn't return a call from The Post on Friday.

Natalie O'Neill

BRIDAL HAIL MARY

NFL squad catches gal's hotel suite ask

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Taylor Swift isn't the only New York-area bride making big NFL news right now for her wedding.

Olivia Coppeletti reached out to the Arizona Cardinals after finding out the presidential suite at her Jersey City wedding hotel — the place she envisioned getting hair and makeup done with her bridesmaids — was booked by the NFL team for her big day on Sunday, Oct. 4 before their 1 p.m. game against the Giants at MetLife Stadium.

In an email addressed to head coach Mike LaFleur, Coppeletti described herself as a "bride who has exhausted all conventional options" and who had had her "heart set" on renting the suite for months.

The hotel forewarned her that it is contractually obligated to reserve rooms for teams visiting MetLife Stadium on fall weekends.

"In other words, Coach, you have unknowingly become the final obstacle standing between me and my dream wedding suite," she wrote. "Therefore, I am respectfully submitting what may be the most ridiculous request you receive all season: If you are not planning to use that suite on Sunday, October 4, would you consider letting a desperate bride have a chance to book it?"

It never hurts to ask, right?

She's no Bridezilla

In reply, Coppeletti received a video from Cardinals owner Michael Bidwill.

"Your email, which I absolutely loved, made its way to me," Bidwill told her. "I looked into it. The situation is a little complicated. The suite you requested wasn't reserved for the coach of the Cardinals but rather the owner of the Cardinals. The good news is that's me, and I'm happy to give it up to you and your bridesmaids to use during your wedding weekend. Congrats and enjoy your special day."

Coppeletti shared her story on TikTok with the caption, "What do you do when the Presidential Suite you've wanted for 10+ months gets booked by the Arizona Cardinals because they play the Giants the weekend of your wedding? You shoot your shot . . ."

Coppeletti included a screenshot of her email to the Cardinals, with the subject line "A Completely Unreasonable Request from an October '26 Bride (for Coach Mike LaFleur)."

In her email, the hopeful bride recognized there is a "99.9 percent chance this email never reaches you, and an even smaller chance that if it does, you have any ability (or desire) to help me."

In exchange for the suite, Coppeletti offered "my enteral gratitude, the satisfaction of making one bride's year (and) an open invitation to stop by my wedding venue, Batello, after the game for a celebratory drink (or several) if you happen to find yourself across the street."

The opposite of a Bridezilla, Coppeletti said she "fully understand(s) that football is more important than my wedding morning."

"If the answer is no, I completely understand and will still be rooting for the Cardinals to beat the Giants (my fiancé said something about "let's go Trey McBride." I don't know who he is, but I'm rooting for him)," she wrote, referencing her husband-to-be John Prendergast.

Bidwill said yes. Just like Coppeletti did to her fiancé's proposal.

NOW *THAT'S* ROOM SERVICE: Arizona Cardinals owner Michael Bidwill (inset) gave up his NJ hotel suite at bride-to-be Olivia Coppeletti's (with fiancé John Prendergast) request for her big day.

@oliviamarie236/TikTok

'Unending trauma' for Guthrie family

"Today" host Savannah Guthrie said her family has been enduring "unending trauma" since her mother, Nancy Guthrie, was abducted from her home — with no arrests made months later.

"It is five months of agony and unending trauma for our family. There is not a moment that goes by that we aren't actively trying to find our mom," Savannah Guthrie, 54, told Arizona outlet KOLD in a statement on Wednesday.

"We thank the people of Tucson for holding her in their hearts, as well as both the FBI and the Pima County Sheriff's Office for their tireless work on behalf of our family," she said. "Bring her home."

Nancy Guthrie, an 84-year-old grandmother, was abducted from her Tucson home in the early morning hours of Feb. 1.

She has not been seen or heard from since.

No arrests have been made and no suspects have been publicly identified despite investigations from the Pima County sheriff and the FBI.

Authorities released footage days after she vanished that showed a masked, gun-toting man on Guthrie's porch staring straight into the security camera lens.

Last month, Savannah Guthrie broke down in tears live on air after reports revealed that a ransom note believed to be sent by her mom's kidnappers claimed she had died.

"I don't have any comment on this story and I'm not involved in our coverage, but I can't pretend I'm not here," Guthrie said.

The FBI on Wednesday denied a report that it has ruled out all ransom notes — but acknowledged that many of them turned out to be dead ends.

Patrick Reilly

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ **CANCER**
(June 22-July 23)
You may not be happy with the changes now taking place, but you know there's not much you can do about it. The one thing you can do, and should do, is to align yourself with the flow of events. Don't try to swim against the tide.

♌ **LEO**
(July 24-Aug. 23)
There is an urgency to what you are doing at the moment and that urgency will increase this weekend. The danger, of course, is that you could be tempted to push too far or move too fast and make a mistake. Always think before you act.

♍ **VIRGO**
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
What occurs on the work front this weekend will take you by surprise and you may not enjoy it. But these changes, while disruptive, will also create new opportunities, and someone with your sharp mind should be able to take full advantage.

♎ **LIBRA**
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
Change is good for you. Change is what you need. If you keep repeating those phrases to yourself, the changes that occur this weekend, and they could be major, will work in your favor. Positive thinking isn't a meaningless phrase, it's a very real thing.

♏ **SCORPIO**
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
The more you try to force something in the direction you want it to go, the more it will move in a different direction, so take the hint and accept this isn't the time to be overly assertive. Go with the flow rather than fight against it.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS**
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Get used to the fact that whatever you say over the next 48 hours, partners, friends and colleagues will most likely disagree with your plans. You can still push ahead with them, of course, but you won't be getting much assistance.

♑ **CAPRICORN**
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
What's taking place on the work front may not be to your liking, but if you are smart you won't kick up a fuss. There are powerful forces in play, some of them behind the scenes, and you really don't want to turn them against you.

♒ **AQUARIUS**
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Your ruling planet Uranus is energized by Mars in the most dynamic area of your chart this weekend, making this the ideal time to roll up your sleeves and get stuck in creatively. Maybe it's time to paint, write or compose your masterpiece.

♓ **PISCES**
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
If you feel like having a cleanout, then go for it. There is a great deal of physical junk in your life that you could do without and not a small amount of mental and emotional junk as well. Be ruthless with yourself this weekend.

♈ **ARIES**
(March 21-April 20)
Mars, your ruler, joins forces with changes planet Uranus this weekend, so the next 48 hours will certainly be busy and may even be chaotic. The good news is you will thrive in this fast-moving environment. You enjoy a bit of noise and confusion.

♉ **TAURUS**
(April 21-May 21)
Do you give up on something that is taking a lot more time and energy than you expected? Or do you stick it out and hope to see progress quite soon? Make it the latter. You could be surprised how quickly things change this weekend.

♊ **GEMINI**
(May 22-June 21)
Mars, planet of energy and ambition, joins forces with Uranus, planet of genius, in your sign this weekend, so something special is going to happen and you will be at the center of it. Your lust for life will inspire those around you.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY
A Mars-Uranus link on your birthday will endow you with huge amounts of energy, and if you channel it constructively, there is no limit to what you might achieve. Give your imagination permission to roam and follow it up with forceful action.

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The National Hymn

Katharine Lee Bates, a 33-year-old English literature teacher at Wellesley College, was on "a merry expedition up Pike's Peak" in Colorado in 1893 when she looked out "over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies."

In an instant, she said, "the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind." Those lines became "America the Beautiful" — a song that will feature today in countless parades and band concerts.

Everyone knows the first verse, with its evocation of "amber waves of grain" and "purple mountain majesties." But how many have read — let alone sung — the entire song?

The full hymn is more than just a poetic appreciation of the country's wonders of nature. It evokes the vitality of an ever-widening America, celebrates its storied past and — most important — evokes its limitless future potential.

It hails the pioneering forebears who beat "a thoroughfare of freedom . . . across the wilderness," and pays tribute to the nation's defenders in war, the brave "heroes . . . who more than self their country loved."

More: It looks forward to a day when America's "alabaster cities" finally will "gleam undimmed by human tears."

The song has always stirred deep emotion. "I can't read the lines without swallowing hard," one early reader wrote Bates. Voices quavered as crowds solemnly sang the song outside the White House in 1941 after Pearl Harbor and, six decades later, at Ground Zero after 9/11.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II recited its fervent prayer — "America, America, God shed his grace on thee" — as he descended from his plane on his first trip to this country.

The many memorable recordings and renditions — from Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, Mariah Carey and others — all share a moving simplicity, without the vocal acrobatics that too often accompany "The Star-spangled Banner."

The music plays a large part in the song's mystique. Samuel Howe, a church organist, composed it during an 1882 ferry ride from Coney Island to his home in Newark — for an entirely different hymn. It was attached to Bates' words in 1904 after his death.

Today, as we mark the nation's 250th anniversary, is certainly the day to appreciate this magnificent tribute to America and all that it represents. Have a glorious Fourth!

America the Beautiful

By Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929)
Music by Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903)

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

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letters@nypost.com

A Remarkable Record: Happy 250th to the USA!

THE ISSUE: America's independence and astonishing history as it marks its 250th anniversary.

American flags fly

•It's been 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed, and a new nation was born in the name of freedom and liberty ("Founding Faith," Brian Kilmeade, PostOpinion, July 1).

Since then, every generation has stepped up to defend that freedom. Let's take a moment to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we could live free. Happy 250th, America!

Paul Bacon
Hallandale Beach, Fla.

•In 1776, against overwhelming odds, a collection of 13 small colonies declared independence, challenging the most powerful empire on Earth and somehow prevailing.

The greatest American achievement was not the airplane, the moon landing, the internet or even the unprecedented prosperity that followed. It was the radical idea that ordinary people could govern themselves.

No nation is perfect, including America. But the genius of the American experiment has never been perfection. It has been the freedom to recognize our failures, correct our course and keep moving forward.

Alan Webber
Cave Creek, Ariz.

•Our forefathers set up our republic with less government control and lower taxes. They certainly did not have socialism in mind.

Tom Scott
Spotswood, NJ

•I've been looking forward to our country's 250th anniversary, and as a Vietnam War veteran, I have a serious disdain for the new socialist and communist left that has taken over the Democratic Party.

It's time the Republicans use the law to immediately remove the poisonous ideology that plagues our society.

Gregory Topliff
Aiken, SC

•It's a remarkable fact that we exist as a nation that is obedient to a constitutional government, given that it was born from rebellion.

Today, many of us question whether we have the right stuff to make this experiment in democracy continue for another 250 years.

What qualities inside us have helped us soldier on with the great American experiment in democracy, despite all our doubts? Perhaps, just asking ourselves this question is one thing that helps our democracy endure in times of danger.

Claude Borowsky
Southampton, Mass.

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Mail-In Ballot Win for Dems

THE ISSUE: The Supreme Court's ruling that states can count mail-in ballots that arrive after Election Day.

•The Supreme Court ruled that state laws that allow ballots to arrive after Election Day are legal ("SCOTUS mails it in for Dems," June 30).

The four dissenting justices had no real legal argument to back their conclusions. They argued it was a policy decision. It is not their job to make policy decisions. Did they pledge allegiance to the president or the Constitution? Their credibility is rightly in question.

Bob Bascelli, Seaford

•The Supreme Court's ruling in favor of accepting mail-in ballots after Election Day speaks directly to voter fraud, a top priority for President Trump and his loyalists.

This ruling also exposes the Republican-sponsored SAVE America Act, touted as a shield for voter integrity, as a ruse. Voter fraud has yet to emerge as the central rallying cry for Democrats, but if the fundamental right of democracy is to survive, then affordability and health care must lose their spots as the leading Democratic issues. The true objective of the SAVE Act is tightening Trump's stronghold over the ballot box to sustain his hold on power.

Trump understands that a flipped Congress will effectively neuter his presidency. Halting the debasement of presidential norms and the dismantling of the Constitution will ensure accountability and the survival of the republic.

Jim Paladino
Tampa, Fla.

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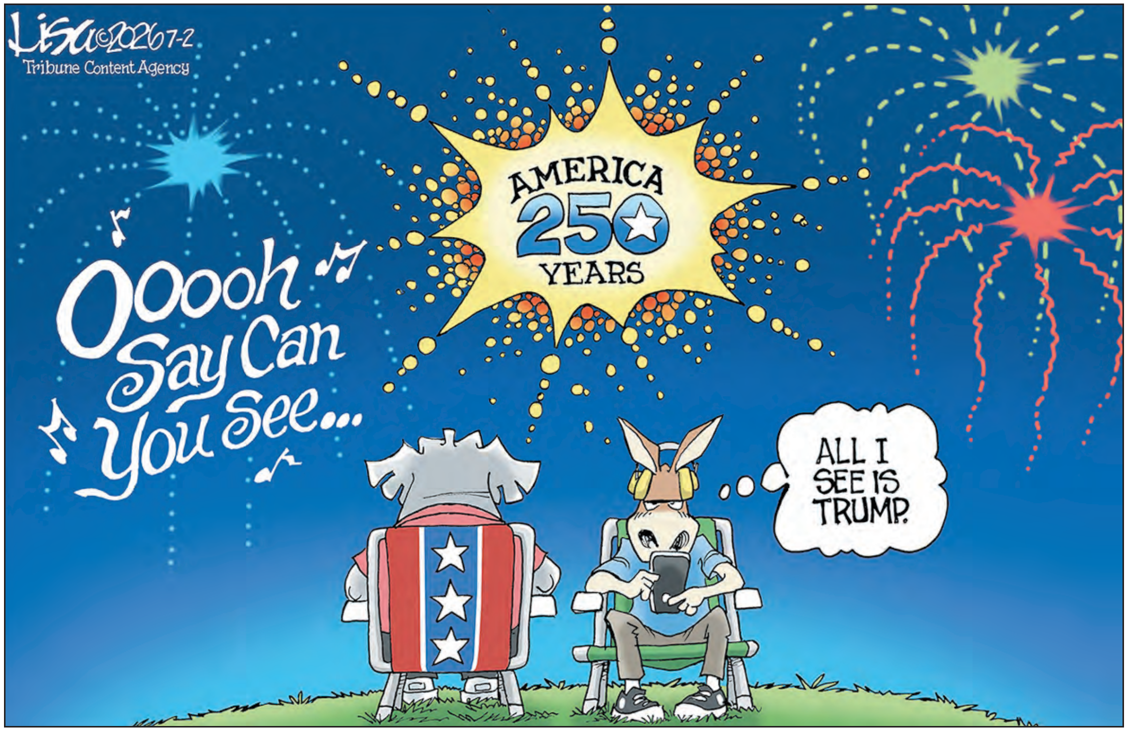

WAR? GET USED TO IT

DAVID HARSANYI

ONE of the most popular complaints of the younger Americans is that the United States has been bogged down in endless war and interventionism virtually their entire lifetimes. Welcome to history.

As much as we may not like it, the United States has engaged in conflict and meddling more or less since its inception. The US was born in war.

It expanded through war. It freed its slaves through war. It grew into a superpower through war. And until utopia exists, it's exceedingly likely we will need to clash with those who threaten our prestige and power.

Indeed, you can look at the parallels between today's war against the Iranian terrorist regime and our very first foreign conflict to understand why. From the founding, the Islamic states in Algiers, Tripoli and Tunis in North Africa were capturing American ships, demanding tolls and taking hostages.

Without the protection of the British Royal Navy, President George Washington felt compelled to pay off the emirs. President John Adams was even more susceptible to blackmail, appeasing the Islamic rulers with ships, weaponry, ammunition and annual sums — let's say "pallets" — of gold and silver.

The Barbary States took the bounty, strung the US along in negotiations, ultimately ignored the treaties they did sign, continued to take captives, murder Americans and disrupt trade. After winning the White House in 1801, Jefferson halted the payoffs.

His justifications for fighting the Barbary "pirates" — a historical mischaracterization of the Islamic sultans who had been raiding in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, taking European slaves for two centuries — were more than just narrow trading interests.

When serving as ambassador in Britain in 1785, Jefferson had met with Tripoli's representative Abdul Rahman Adja and asked him why the Barbary States targeted Americans who had shown them no hostility. Jefferson described Adja's response in a letter to John Jay.

"The Ambassador answered us that it was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Koran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found . . . and that every [Muslim] who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise," Jefferson wrote.

Sounds familiar. Centuries before modern Israel existed or any American military interventions in the Middle East, Jefferson was confronted with Islamic supremacy.

Paying tributes to these "barbarians," Jefferson argued, was in direct conflict with the ideals of the new nation. When Jefferson congratulated the Marines on their victory against the Algerians, it was for defeating those who "trample on the sacred faith of treaties, on the rights & laws of human nature."

Yet, in the imagination of contemporary isolationists, early American foreign entanglements were only taken on for immediate national interests, stripped of any idealism. This simply isn't so.

And every subsequent generation saw war, as well. Initially, these were conflicts of Western expansion. Soon we were involved in conflicts around the world.

The left and isolationist right are perturbed by our interference with Venezuelan and Cuban sovereignty. But American history is littered with instances of us meddling in places including Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Panama, El Salvador, and Cuba, again, to name a few.

"Gunboat Diplomacy" was predominantly deployed to intimidate and quash domestic movements that threatened American influence.

By 1852, President Millard Fillmore famously dispatched Commodore Matthew Perry to Japan to end that nation's isolationist policies and open trade by force, if needed. President Ulysses Grant sent another military expedition to Korea in 1871 to do the same. President Grover Cleveland sent the Navy to Samoa to protect American commercial interests from the Germans and British.

None of those nations threatened American sovereignty.

Some of these conflicts were more moral than others. Some backfired. Some were unnecessary tragedies.

Some made the world safer: The US has kept Europe free of all-encompassing war since 1945.

Neither war nor intervention should ever be taken on lightly. The notion, however, that Americans are living through some uniquely bellicose or interventionist era is debunked by even a cursory reading of history.

Secret of US Power: We Bet on Builders

LARRY KUDLOW & STEPHEN MOORE

AS Americans celebrate our great nation's independence, let's reaffirm the fundamental values that built this republic into the most prosperous economy in history: freedom and free enterprise, liberty and limited government, the rule of law and private property, free-market competition and individual incentives.

And at their core, perhaps the most important sentence in all of history: "We are endowed by our creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Plenty of nations endure, but what sets American exceptionalism apart has been a single instinct: to build.

Americans invent, take risks and innovate, and we do it because it's who we are. We've never been afraid to build something new — even if it displaces what came before — because the fruits of risk carry the whole country forward. In America we reward, not punish, success.

As a result, throughout our history our economy has grown at an annual rate of 3.5%. No other nation on Earth can boast such growth and ever-expanding prosperity. Once again, freedom and free enterprise win.

Take Henry Ford: Some worried that his cars would put the buggy makers out of business, and they did. But that created opportunity — new companies, new innovations, greater prosperity for all.

The internet began as a tool for a handful of research labs; now it underpins the global economy. Switchboard operators, video-rental stores, newspaper classifieds are all gone. In their place: e-commerce, the app economy, jobs that didn't exist before — and now employ millions.

> *We're racing for the values the future will be built on.*

That's what our national and economic expansion has always looked like. When Lewis and Clark set out, no one could have priced what lay to the west; the value of a continent was unimaginable from its edge.

We stand at the edge of another new frontier now. In America's next 250 years, the pattern will repeat in the realms of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, space and a dozen other frontiers we can't yet name.

Embarking on these expeditions will bring uncertainty, but the payoff can't be calculated in advance. The supercycle has just begun, and the results are already staggering.

AI has mapped the structure of nearly all 200 million known proteins and is poised to discover new life-saving medicines. Reusable rockets the size of skyscrapers are now landing themselves back on launch pads. The American instinct to build remains stronger than ever.

None of this has to leave humans behind. AI will take over some tasks outright, as in every revolution before — but it will also work alongside us, complementing the work we've mastered. If we get this right, AI will create a more productive economy that will continue raising our standard of living.

There's no ceiling on what people desire — so there's no ceiling on the work worth doing. And work itself is dignity and purpose that can't be replaced by government dependency.

Work is godly, and we are endowed by our creator — not by authoritarian big-government socialists. That's why America's productivity, mobility and dynamism will continue to be our great sources of national advantage.

If the demand is endless and the frontier has no edge, someone must lead the way. That leader must be America.

A nation can only defend its freedoms abroad if it's strong enough at home — and strength comes from growth. Nations get into trouble when they grow weak, and weakness almost always begins with economic stagnation.

China, too, is pushing at the edge of every one of these technologies. The centuries ahead will either be shaped by a country founded on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — or by a regime that imposes surveillance, censorship and obedience. We're racing for the values the future will be built on.

The American advantage comes from the private sector, from people willing to put it all on the line for something that might fail. Government doesn't need to direct them: It needs to trust them, to clear the obstacles out of their way — and to let them reap the rewards for making their fellow Americans better off.

Americans have never doubted our abilities. The only question has been how to use them — and the answer, every time, has been to build. That instinct is in our blood, and the work for the next 250 years is to make sure we don't forget it.

Larry Kudlow is chairman of the America First Policy Institute, where Stephen Moore is a senior fellow for American prosperity.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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E_1	O_1	O_1	Y_4	L_1	G_2	C_3	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A_1	O_1	U_1	L_1	T_1	N_1	B_3		RACK 2
A_1	I_1	U_1	T_1	R_1	F_4	N_1	2nd Letter Double	RACK 3
E_1	I_1	U_1	L_1	M_3	H_4	B_3		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS

								SOLUTION
E_1	C_3	O_1	L_1	O_1	G_2	Y_4	RACK 1 =	89
B_3	U_1	T_1	A_1	N_1	O_1	L_1	RACK 2 =	59
A_1	N_1	T_1	I_1	F_4	U_1	R_1	RACK 3 =	61
H_4	U_1	M_3	B_3	L_1	E_1		RACK 4 =	13
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL	222

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♡ J 3
◇ K J 4
♣ K Q 7 5 2

WEST
♠ K 10 3
♡ 10 8 5 4
◇ A 10
♣ A 9 6 3

EAST
♠ J 9 8 7 6 2
♡ K 7 6 2
◇ 7 2
♣ 10

SOUTH
♠ 5
♡ A Q 9
◇ Q 9 8 6 5 3
♣ J 8 4

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ◇	Pass
4 ◇	Pass	5 ◇	All Pass

Opening lead – ♡ 4

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Simple Saturday columns focus on improving basic technique and developing logical thinking.

You're West in today's deal, and North-South bid swiftly to five diamonds. (When North opened 1NT, South's response of three diamonds was forcing in his partnership; many pairs would treat that bid as a weak signoff or as invitational to game.) You lead the four of hearts: jack, king, ace. At the second trick, declarer leads a trump.

Your goal is to beat the contract — quaint concept, eh? — so you need three tricks. How do you plan to get them?

You will get no spades; if South needs a spade finesse with dummy's queen, you know it will win. You will get no hearts; your partner's play of the king marks South with the A-Q. You will get one club. You will get your ace of trumps but surely not a second trump.

You have one chance. Grab your ace of trumps and lead the ace of clubs and a second club, hoping your partner can ruff. Today your astute defense is rewarded.

Word Force

REORIENTED

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 21** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST
Yesterday's word:
APPELLANT

apnea
apple
lapel
natal
paean
panel
papal
penal
petal
plane
plant
plate
pleat

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAPPY 250TH, AMERICA! **Solution: 12 letters**

H	E	I	D	A	L	O	T	I	P	Ⓐ	C	N	G	Y
S	C	M	R	N	D	N	O	T	Ⓢ	O	B	S	T	P
E	N	R	U	E	A	A	O	Ⓤ	D	W	R	R	A	O
T	E	O	A	N	P	L	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	W
A	D	N	E	M	U	U	G	S	D	B	A	Y	P	E
T	N	O	E	E	A	S	B	N	I	D	A	A	T	R
S	E	H	S	H	P	Y	U	L	E	D	T	A	T	N
N	P	E	U	T	R	O	F	B	I	R	R	Y	U	O
A	E	R	O	N	F	O	T	L	I	C	A	V	S	S
R	D	O	H	A	E	N	O	O	O	R	A	A	T	R
E	N	S	E	U	A	H	T	M	M	W	U	N	R	E
T	I	T	T	T	W	I	E	Y	T	A	E	L	I	F
E	O	A	I	O	S	D	E	C	O	R	C	R	P	F
V	T	O	H	M	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	E	E
S	N	S	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	S	J

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Adams, Anthem, Army, Boston, Capitol, Décor, Democrat, Elections, England, E Pluribus Unum, Founders, Freedom, Hero, Holiday, Honor, Independence, Jefferson, March, Mayflower, Nation, Navy, Parade, Patriotism, Potomac, Power, Republican, Show, States, Statue of Liberty, Stripes, USA, Veterans, Vote, Washington, White House

Yesterday's Answer: Appearance

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 36

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #7,329

	9	4	2	3		8	6	
2			6		7			4
1		5				6		
	3	7	5		8	2	9	
		6				5		8
5			7		4			6
	4	2		8	9	3	5	

Difficult #7,119

		6			7	1	9	
								5
9	4		2			6		8
5				3		8		
		1				9		
		2		5				6
6		7			4		8	1
2								
	1	4	7			3		

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								■	16					
17								18						
19			■	20						■	21			
22			23	■	24				■	■	■	25		
26				27	■	28			29	■	30			
31					32		■	33		34		■	■	■
■	35					■	■	■	36			37	38	■
■	■	■	39			40	■	41						42
43	44	45		■	46		47		■	48				
49			■	■	■	50			51	■	52			
53			54	■	55					56	■	57		
58				59							60			
61						■	62							
63						■	64							

Across

1 Scratch pads?
9 Coastal region along the Santa Lucia Mountains
15 Backspin producer?
16 Coffee drink made with a frother
17 Coldplay hit co-produced by Avicii
19 Low digit?
20 Brand whose logo adorns Argentine soccer jerseys
21 Lake just south of London
22 Market openings, briefly
24 Heroic poetry
25 Fig. in a background check
26 Like Pluto, once
28 Hook's boatswain
30 Germ
31 Series opener
33 School zone sign
35 For the first time
36 No-nonsense
39 Socket set
41 Platform for content creators
43 Bracelet component
46 Towering
48 Not perfectly round
49 NYC setting
50 Football coach Pederson
52 Gouda alternative
53 Alexa device
55 Like 56-Down
57 Purple yam used in desserts
58 "Seven Nation Army" band
61 "Vacancy" singer Ari
62 Trattoria tubes
63 Apples in the trash, e.g.
64 Fourth of July treats

Down

1 Packing
2 Using coded language
3 1980s hit whose video drew a lot of attention?
4 Tax
5 Rival of The Djoker and Fed Express
6 Ooze
7 Shape with minor and major axes
8 Hardly ever
9 Ride-or-dies, for short
10 Org. whose first commissioner was former treasury secretary George S. Boutwell
11 Flight board info
12 Few and far between
13 Revolt
14 Email again
18 Palm springs?
23 Worried
27 "__ guacamole!"
29 Queen who appears at Epcot's Royal Sommerhus
30 Sharp turn
32 Russian refusal
34 2022 title role for Tom Hanks
37 Learn by the book?
38 Latin attention-getter
40 Anwar who wrote "Revolt on the Nile"
41 Connects
42 Itchy, to Scratchy
43 Grown-up grub
44 Refrain from
45 Zeus's brain child?
47 Solitary sorts
51 Onset
54 __ up to
55 Prix __
56 "Hotel Transylvania" protagonist
59 Mild alternative
60 Olympian Midori

S	W	A	T	H	■	F	E	T	A	■	P	E	L	T
E	E	R	I	E	■	I	D	O	L	■	O	L	E	O
P	A	I	N	R	E	L	I	E	F	■	W	E	A	N
I	R	A	N	■	L	I	E	S	■	B	E	C	K	S
A	S	S	Y	R	I	A	■	■	P	E	R	T	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	O	L	E	P	U	R	P	O	S	E
B	E	T	A	S	■	■	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A
U	S	E	S	■	S	P	E	C	K	■	S	A	L	T
R	A	N	A	F	T	E	R	■	■	D	E	L	T	S
G	U	T	R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	■	■	■	■
■	■	S	E	E	R	■	■	S	N	A	P	P	E	D
C	L	A	S	S	■	B	L	O	C	■	E	L	S	E
H	U	L	U	■	R	E	A	L	E	S	T	A	T	E
A	X	E	L	■	A	V	I	D	■	P	R	I	E	D
P	E	S	T	■	P	Y	R	E	■	A	I	D	E	S

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Global gains

Asian and European stocks had their best weekly performance in two months on Friday after a lukewarm US jobs report dampened expectations for an imminent rate hike from the Federal Reserve, which restrained the dollar and gave gold a boost.

Cup tix probe

Texas' attorney general launched a probe into StubHub amid dozens of complaints that World Cup tickets purchased on the resale platform were never delivered. StubHub said its FanProtect Guarantee provides replacement tickets or a full refund.

Tesla in Miami

Elon Musk's Tesla said its robotaxi was available in Miami, as the electric-vehicle maker looks to expand its autonomous ride-hailing operations beyond Texas and California.

Bitcoin rolling

Bitcoin rose for the third straight day, gaining 1.2% to $62,157. The world's largest cryptocurrency climbed 4% this week.

Be like Jensen

Sotheby's is auctioning an autographed black leather jacket owned by Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang for charity. The jacket is estimated to fetch as much as $60,000.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

USA IS ON A ROLL

Record 61M hit the road despite pump pain

By ARIEL ZILBER

This Fourth of July, a record number of people are honoring the country through one of its most celebrated pastimes — the great American road trip — in spite of high gas prices.

AAA expects a record 61.4 million people to travel by car over the holiday weekend, the second-busiest driving stretch of the year after Thanksgiving.

That's even as prices remain near historic highs after retreating from the sharp spike that followed the war with Iran.

The national average for regular gasoline has fallen from a June peak above $4.56 a gallon as crude oil prices eased following the height of the conflict and the resumption of energy shipments through the Persian Gulf.

Forget pre-war prices

Even so, drivers are still paying a national average of $3.84 a gallon — nearly $1 more than before the war and enough to make this the third-costliest Independence Day period at the pump on record, trailing only 2022 and 2008.

The average price of gas in New York was $4.07 as of Friday. In California, the average was $5.38.

The pinch isn't keeping Americans off the road.

Instead of scrapping vacations, many families are opting for shorter getaways, destinations closer to home and fewer discretionary purchases like souvenirs to offset higher fuel bills, according to AAA.

The stubbornly high cost of filling up the nation's gas tanks could become a political headache for President Trump and congressional Republicans as November's midterm elections draw closer.

A Gallup survey conducted during the first two weeks of June found that two-thirds of Americans say higher gasoline prices are causing financial strain, while nearly half reported changing their summer travel plans because of fuel costs.

Consumer confidence improved modestly in June as gasoline prices retreated, easing some concerns about the economy.

Trump has repeatedly predicted fuel prices would "drop like a rock" after the Middle East conflict ended and has accused retailers of failing to pass savings on to consumers quickly enough.

Economists say drivers shouldn't expect prices to return to prewar levels anytime soon, though.

Gas stations are still selling fuel they purchased when wholesale prices were much higher, creating a lag before lower oil prices reach consumers, said Sung Won Sohn, professor of finance and economics at Loyola Marymount University and chief economist at SS Economics.

"Until that gas is sold and exhausted, they are reluctant to lower the price," he told The Post.

Even if fighting in the Middle East doesn't resume, motorists could be waiting as long as six months before prices stabilize, he said.

"I doubt that we are going to see the price of gasoline coming back to what it was before the war, at least for a while," Sohn said.

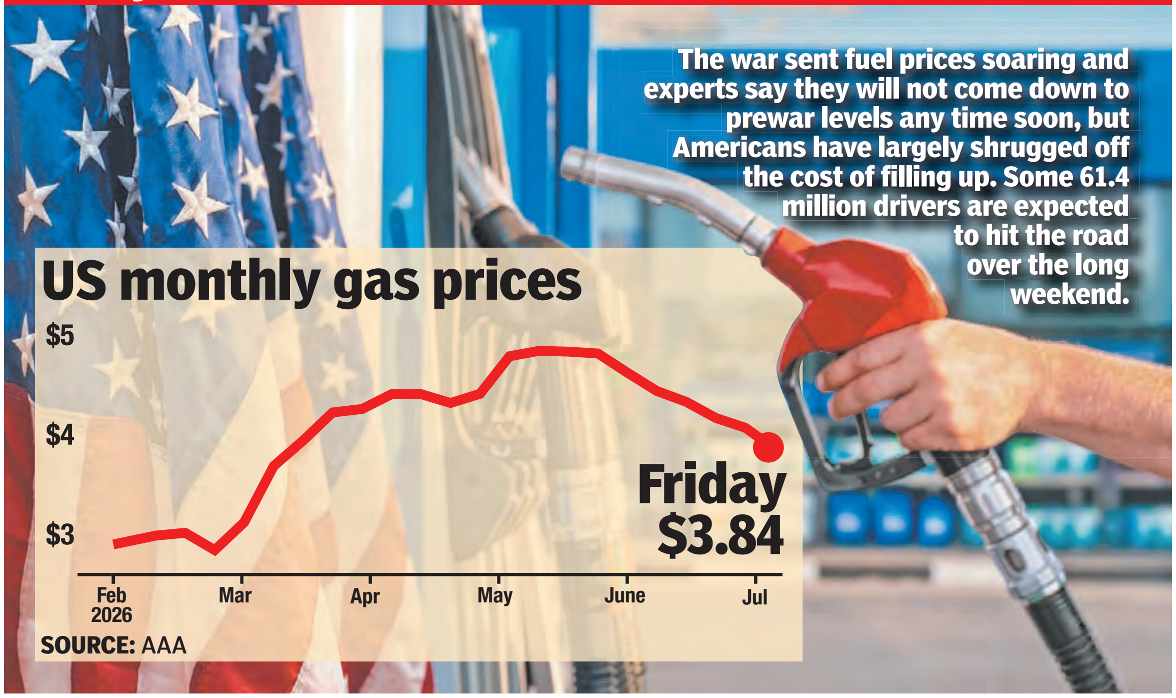
Lingering disruptions to Gulf shipping routes, elevated tanker insurance costs and unusually low global fuel inventories are also likely to keep prices elevated as supplies are gradually rebuilt, according to Sohn.

Higher gasoline prices are also hitting lower-income Americans the hardest, he said.

Unlike wealthier households, lower-income consumers have little financial cushion to absorb higher fuel and grocery bills, Sohn explained.

azilber@nypost.com

Holiday travel hasn't tanked



The war sent fuel prices soaring and experts say they will not come down to prewar levels any time soon, but Americans have largely shrugged off the cost of filling up. Some 61.4 million drivers are expected to hit the road over the long weekend.

SOURCE: AAA

Adobe Stock

Gusher of Iran War profits for Big Oil

America's biggest oil companies are poised to post their strongest quarterly earnings in years — as President Trump has been ramping up pressure on the industry to lower gas prices ahead of November's midterm elections.

Exxon Mobil and Chevron are expected to report second-quarter profits that are more than three times higher than in the first three months of the year, fueled by a surge in crude prices after the US-Israeli conflict with Iran disrupted global energy markets, Reuters reported.

LSEG estimates project Exxon will earn roughly $15.9 billion in adjusted net income, while Chevron is forecast to post about $9.9 billion.

The anticipated windfall could create some political headaches for the White House, which has made lowering fuel costs a priority as drivers continue to face elevated prices at the pump.

"Gasoline Retailers must get their Prices down, IMMEDIATELY!" Trump wrote in a June 29 social media post. The Justice Department is examining potential gasoline price gouging.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has also warned that additional administrative measures remain possible if retail prices fail to fall.

Ariel Zilber

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of PHOENIX HEALTH THERAPY, PLLC Authority filed with the New York Secy of State (SSNY) on May 22, 2026. Principal business and office location: 39 Raspberry Lane, Levittown, NY 11756, Nassau County. LLC formed in SC on May 31, 2024. SSNY is designated as agent of the foreign professional service limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 2819 McLeod Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Address of office required to be maintained in the jurisdiction of organization: 2819 McLeod Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Certificate of Organization filed with the South Carolina Secy of State, located at 1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525, Columbia, SC 29201. Purpose: Operate as a professional entity practicing the profession of Psychology.

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY DEVIATION FROM USCG REGULATIONS
EFFECTIVE FROM 21:15 ON JULY 10, 2026 THROUGH 22:45 ON JULY 10, 2026, (RAIN DATE: JULY 11, 2026) THE LONG BEACH BRIDGE WILL REMAIN IN THE CLOSED POSITION.

PLACE AN AD

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clloyd@nypost.com

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Thursday: Wednesday 2:30PM
Friday: Thursday 2:30PM
Saturday: Friday 2:30PM
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Golf

PGA Tour- John Deere Classic
At TPC Deere Run; Silvis, Ill.; Purse: $8.8 million; Yardage: 7,327; Par: 71
Second Round

Lucas Glover	63-65	128	-14
Lee Hodges	64-66	130	-12
Zac Blair	63-68	131	-11
Tyler Duncan	66-66	132	-10
Ryo Hisatsune	67-65	132	-10
Ben Kohles	65-67	132	-10
David Lipsky	67-65	132	-10
Troy Merritt	66-66	132	-10
Jackson Suber	68-64	132	-10
Max Homa	67-66	133	-9
Michael Brennan	66-68	134	-8
Doug Ghim	69-65	134	-8
Chris Gotterup	66-68	134	-8
Ben Griffin	69-65	134	-8
Zach Johnson	64-70	134	-8
William Mouw	66-68	134	-8
Pontus Nyholm	68-66	134	-8
Hayden Springer	66-68	134	-8
Blades Brown	69-66	135	-7
Davis Chatfield	69-66	135	-7
Luke Gutschewski	67-68	135	-7
Harry Higgs	67-68	135	-7
Chan Kim	68-67	135	-7
Tom Kim	67-68	135	-7
Andrew Putnam	67-68	135	-7
Austin Smotherman	66-69	135	-7
Preston Stout	66-69	135	-7
Aaron Wise	66-69	135	-7
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	68-68	136	-6
Zecheng Dou	67-69	136	-6
Patrick Fishburn	65-71	136	-6
Steven Fisk	68-68	136	-6
Emiliano Grillo	70-66	136	-6
Stephan Jaeger	64-72	136	-6
Chandler Phillips	69-67	136	-6
Gordon Sargent	67-69	136	-6
Ryan Brehm	68-69	137	-5
Jacob Bridgeman	67-70	137	-5
Rafael Campos	66-71	137	-5
Pierceson Coody	69-68	137	-5
Joel Dahmen	66-71	137	-5
Tom Hoge	73-64	137	-5
Beau Hossler	70-67	137	-5
Sungjae Im	68-69	137	-5
Nicholas Lindheim	69-68	137	-5
Peter Malnati	71-66	137	-5
Mac Meissner	67-70	137	-5
J.T. Poston	68-69	137	-5
Davis Riley	65-72	137	-5
Karl Vilips	72-65	137	-5
Trace Crowe	69-69	138	-4
Austin Eckroat	71-67	138	-4
Tony Finau	70-68	138	-4
Matt Kuchar	72-66	138	-4
Davis Thompson	69-69	138	-4
Camilo Villegas	71-67	138	-4
Ryan Voois	68-70	138	-4
Matt Wallace	67-71	138	-4
Kevin Yu	66-72	138	-4

Champions Tour- U.S. Senior Open Championship
At Scioto County Club; Columbus, Ohio; Purse: $4 million; Yardage: 7,170; Par: 70
Second Round

George McNeill	68-66	134	-6
Padraig Harrington	69-67	136	-4
Stewart Cink	67-70	137	-3
Miguel Angel Jimenez	69-68	137	-3
Charlie Wi	67-70	137	-3
Alex Cejka	69-69	138	-2
Chris Devlin	70-68	138	-2
Tommy Gainey	69-69	138	-2
Henrik Stenson	71-67	138	-2
Stephen Ames	70-69	139	-1
Ben Crane	69-70	139	-1
Jamie Donaldson	69-70	139	-1
Richard Green	69-70	139	-1
Ian Poulter	70-69	139	-1
Paul Stankowski	69-70	139	-1
Ernie Els	71-69	140	E
Ricardo Gonzalez	73-67	140	E
Simon Griffiths	68-72	140	E
Jeff Maggert	71-69	140	E
Pat Perez	72-68	140	E
Tim Petrovic	70-70	140	E
Y.E. Yang	71-69	140	E

DP World Tour- BMW International Open
At Golfclub Munchen Eichenried; Munich; Purse: $3 million; Yardage: 7,354; Par: 72
Second Round

Hennie Du Plessis,	64-69	133	-11
Michael Hollick,	66-68	134	-10
Carlos Ortiz,	67-67	134	-10
Jack Senior,	69-65	134	-10
Brad Dalke,	69-66	135	-9
Joe Dean,	66-69	135	-9
Frederic Lacroix,	69-66	135	-9
Paul Waring,	66-69	135	-9
Manuel Elvira,	67-69	136	-8
Ross Fisher,	66-70	136	-8
Sebastian Garcia Rodriguez,	68-68	136	-8
Oihan Guillamoundeguy,	69-67	136	-8
Adrian Meronk,	67-69	136	-8
JC Ritchie,	65-71	136	-8
Matti Schmid,	69-67	136	-8

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Liberty	13	8	.619	—
Atlanta	12	8	.600	½
Indiana	11	8	.579	1
Washington	10	9	.526	2
Toronto	9	10	.474	3
Chicago	6	14	.300	6½
Connecticut	4	16	.200	8½
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Minnesota	15	5	.750	—
Las Vegas	15	5	.750	—
Golden State	13	7	.650	2
Dallas	12	8	.600	3
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	6
Portland	8	12	.400	7
Phoenix	8	13	.381	7½
Seattle	5	16	.238	10½

Friday
Liberty 99, Minnesota 86
Las Vegas 98, Chicago 90, OT

Saturday
Golden State at Atlanta, 1pm
Portland at Seattle, 9pm

Sunday
Dallas at Toronto, 3pm
Indiana at Las Vegas, 7pm

Monday
Golden State at Washington, 7:30pm
Connecticut at Minnesota, 8pm
Seattle at Los Angeles, 10pm

Liberty 99, Lynx 86

Minnesota

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Coffey	28:05	2-11	2-2	1-5	3	0	7
McBride	32:39	7-16	0-0	1-1	1	1	18
Howard	31:08	3-10	1-1	2-6	2	4	7
Miles	26:14	5-16	4-4	4-5	5	3	14
Williams	24:32	7-13	0-0	2-5	3	3	16
Caldwell	23:09	1-3	0-0	1-2	3	1	3
Kosu	13:48	4-6	1-2	3-3	3	2	9
Delaere	13:26	2-7	0-0	1-2	2	1	6
King	6:59	3-3	0-0	1-2	0	0	6
Totals	200:00	34-85	8-9	16-31	22	15	86

Percentages: FG .400, FT .889. **3-point goals:** 10-31, .323 (McBride 4-9, Williams 2-4, Delaere 2-7, Caldwell 1-1, Coffey 1-6, Miles 0-4). **Team rebounds:** 7. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 1 (Coffey). **Turnovers:** 8 (McBride 3, Williams 2, Caldwell, Coffey, Miles). **Steals:** 8 (McBride 3, Caldwell, Coffey, King, Kosu, Miles). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Fiebich	36:28	5-10	0-0	1-3	4	4	13
Stewart	35:30	14-19	6-6	1-7	0	1	36
Jones	33:29	5-10	2-3	3-15	5	2	14
Astier	30:09	5-6	4-4	1-2	6	2	14
Ionescu	35:07	5-12	4-4	0-2	6	1	17
Johannes	14:44	0-1	0-0	0-4	5	1	0
Xu	7:50	2-2	1-1	1-1	0	1	5
Gardner	3:32	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Carrera	3:11	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	200:00	36-62	17-18	7-34	26	13	99

Percentages: FG .581, FT .944. **3-point goals:** 10-25, .400 (Fiebich 3-6, Ionescu 3-10, Jones 2-3, Stewart 2-4, Gardner 0-1, Johannes 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 7. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Ionescu 2, Stewart 2, Xu 2). **Turnovers:** 15 (Stewart 4, Astier 3, Johannes 3, Jones 3, Ionescu 2). **Steals:** 8 (Fiebich 3, Ionescu 2, Jones 2, Johannes). **Technicals:** None.

Minnesota	22	27	16	21 —	86
Liberty	26	33	19	21 —	99

A: 15,345 (17,732). **T:** 1:49.

WTA Tour

H-hard, C-clay, G-grass
June 19-27 2026 — Bad Homburg Open, GO (Karolina Muchova)
June 19-27 2026 — Eastbourne Open, GO (Madison Keys)
June 21-July 11 — The Championships, GO
July 11-19 2026 — Athens, Greece, HO
July 11-19 2026 — UniCredit Iasi Open, CO

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
11 a.m.	Pirates at Nationals	MLBN
1:35 p.m.	Twins at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
4 p.m.	Blue Jays at Mariners	MLBN
8:08 p.m.	Mets at Braves	Fox, 880 AM
9:30 p.m.	Brewers at Diamondbacks	MLBN
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
1 p.m.	Round of 16: Canada vs. Morocco	Fox, Telemundo
5 p.m.	Round of 16: Paraguay vs. France	Fox, Telemundo
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
6:30 p.m.	Seattle Reign at North Carolina Courage	ION
8:45 p.m.	Gotham FC at San Diego Wave	ION
NBA BASKETBALL		
3 p.m.	Summer League: Bucks vs. Warriors Blue	Prime Video
3 p.m.	Summer League: Grizzlies vs. Thunder	ESPNU, Prime Video
5 p.m.	Summer League: Nets vs. Kings	Gotham App, Prime Video
5 p.m.	Summer League: Hawks vs. Jazz	ESPNU, Prime Video
WNBA BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	Valkyries at Dream	CBS
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, 3rd Round	ESPN
BOXING		
8 p.m.	The Fight: Mason vs. Bell; Carrington vs. Palacios	TNT, truTV
GOLF		
7 a.m.	DP World Tour: BMW International Open, 3rd Round	Golf
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, 3rd Round	Golf
2 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: U.S. Senior Open Championship, 3rd Rd.	NBC
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, 3rd Round	CBS
MEN'S SOCCER		
7 p.m.	USL League One: Greenville Truimph SC at New York Cosmos	SNY
MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL		
4 p.m.	Chesapeake Baysox at Binghamton Rumble Ponies	SNY
AUTO RACING		
7 a.m.	Formula 1: British Grand Prix, Sprint Race	Apple TV
9 a.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio-Race 1, Qualifying	FS1
10 a.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Practice	FS1
11 a.m.	Formula 1: British Grand Prix, Qualifying	Apple TV
1 p.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio - Race 2	FS1
2 p.m.	SuperMotocross World Championship: RedBud - Round 22	NBCSN
2:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Qualifying	FS1
3 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: eero 400, In-Season Challenge - Rd. 2, Qual.	truTV
5:30 p.m.	NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Race at Chicagoland	PIX11
SOFTBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Volts at Bandits	CBSSN
7 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Cascade at Spark	ESPNU
9 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Blaze at Talons	CBSSN
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	3ICE 3-on-3 Hockey	MSG, NHLN
TRACK AND FIELD		
Noon	USATF: Prefontaine Classic (Diamond League)	NBCSN
5 p.m.	USATF: Prefontaine Classic (Diamond League)	NBC
EATING COMPETITION		
Noon	Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest	ESPN2, ABC
BASEBALL		
Noon	Ripken National Championships Semifinals	CBSSN
7 p.m.	Ripken National Championships Final	CBSSN
HORSE RACING		
12:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
4 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
7:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1
AFL FOOTBALL		
2:30 a.m. (Sun.)	Port Adelaide at North Melbourne	FS2
RUGBY		
12 a.m. (Sun.)	NRL: Manly-Warringah at Parramatta	FS2
CYCLING		
10 a.m.	UCI: Tour de France, Stage 1	NBCSN

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: €30,060,000; Surface: Grass; (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Third Round
Roman Safiullin, Russia, def. Joao Fonseca (24), Brazil, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.
Shintaro Mochizuki, Japan, def. Rafael Jodar (23), Spain, 1-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4.
Novak Djokovic (7), Serbia, def. Arthur Rinderknech (25), France, 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4).
Jannik Sinner (1), Italy, def. Jenson Brooksby, United States, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Daniil Medvedev (8), Russia, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-5.
Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, def. Tommy Paul (21), United States, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5, 6-2.
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (22), Spain, def. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, 7-6 (3), 6-2, 6-3.
Felix Auger-Aliassime (3), Canada, def. Michael Zheng, United States, 7-6 (1), 6-2, 6-1.
Women's Singles - Third Round
Belinda Bencic (11), Switzerland, def. Anna Kalinskaya (19), Russia, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6).
Naomi Osaka (14), Japan, def. Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 6-1, 6-3.
Jessica Pegula (4), United States, def. Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Spain, 6-1, 6-3.
Iva Jovic (16), United States, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova (18), Russia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 6-4, 6-4.
Barbora Krejcikova, Czechia, def. Nikola Bartunkova, Czechia, 6-3, 7-5.
Karolina Muchova (10), Czechia, def. Mananchaya Sawangkaew, Thailand, 6-2, 7-6 (1).
Coco Gauff (7), United States, def. Claire Liu, United States, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

Cruz sent back to Triple-A

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In his first three major league games, Yovanny Cruz has shown excellent stuff, velocity that hitters have not been able to handle and the type of profile that makes a lot of sense at the back of the Yankees bullpen, which could use a shutdown reliever.

YANKEES NOTES

And yet after two of these outings, the Yankees have sent him right back to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Cruz — who was impressive in two perfect, three-strikeout innings Tuesday — was demoted again Wednesday so the righty could continue to work on his command and his splitter, manager Aaron Boone said.

The 26-year-old flamethrower has yet to issue a walk in 4 ¹⁄₃ major league innings but has walked 4.1 per nine innings at the lower level.

The Yankees had other corresponding options this week as they activated David Bednar from the paternity list — Jake Bird, Camilo Doval and Brent Headrick are able to be sent to the minor leagues without being subject to waivers — but opted to send down an impressive pitcher who they say needs more refining.

➤ On a day the Yankees activated **Trent Grisham** and **Ryan McMahon**, they started **José Caballero** over **Anthony Volpe** at shortstop. Caballero had been moving all over the field, starting five times in left field, once in center and once in right during Grisham's absence and four times at third base with McMahon sidelined.

➤ As they activated McMahon and Grisham, the Yankees optioned **Oswaldo Cabrera**. After Friday's game, they optioned **Spencer Jones** to make space for **Brendan Beck**, who will start Saturday.

➤ With Beck being called up, the Yankees promoted lefty **Kyle Carr** from Double-A Somerset to SWB.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **12:35 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day | **Accent (2nd)**
Lock Record: 0 for 1 (0%)
Meet Record: 0/11 ($0)

1 6 1/2 fur; $120,000; alw; 3YO(f)

Happy 4th of July! Four stakes on the holiday card. The Sanford, Belmont Oaks, Belmont Derby and Suburban...**MASHALLAH** debuted with a front running W at Keeneland, then a tired 5th racing a mile at Churchill. The one to catch in the opener turning back to a sprint. **LOVELY CHRISTINA** makes 3YO debut after going 1 for 3 as a 2YO. Midpack 5th in the Grade 1 Frizette prior to the break. Gets Johnny V back; 1st time lasix. **FEMINISM** won at 1st asking as well, then a no excuses 4th as fave.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Feminism(L),123	J Ortiz	4-1-x	Asmussen	3-1
2	Irresistible(L),123	F Prat	3-2-1	Asmussen	15-1
3	Lovely Christina(M),123	J Velazquez	5-1-2	Pletcher	5-2
4	Mashallah(L),123	T Gaffalione	5-1-x	Walsh	3-5
5	Lightscape(M),123	J Lezcano	6-5-1	Proctor	15-1

2 1 mile(T); $120,000; alw; 3up(f)

On the turf to backend the double. **ACCENT** was 3 lengths shy in the Grade 3 Gallorette at Laurel. Won 3 in a row earlier this year. **SOUNDBITE** MTO. Won in the mud here last summer. **ORI** was 2nd best this distance at Fair Grounds. Silvera picks her up for Nevin. **MAKE YOU MINE** Won-n-done. Irish filly won handily 17 months ago. Hasn't raced since. Make US debut for Chad Brown. We will wait.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ori(L),126	R Silvera	2-5-2	Nevin	8-1
2	Accent(GB)(L),126	F Prat	5-4-1	C Brown	8-5
3	Vekoma View(L),121	M Franco	5-4-1	Weaver	6-1
4	Eponine(IRE)(L),126	J Ortiz	2-3-x	Attard	5-2
5	Make You Mine(IRE)(M),126	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	C Brown	6-1
6	New Rose(L),121	E Zayas	1-6-x	Antonucci	10-1
7	Bourbon Betty(L),121	D Davis	8-1-5	Hennig	20-1
8	Special Wood(FR)(L),121	J Lezcano	7-7-x	Proctor	12-1
9	Brunch With Amy(L),126	J Ortiz	6-3-4	Rice	5-2
10	Fast and Frisky(L),126	R Santana, Jr	1-4-7	Charlerie	5-1
11	Bernieandtherose(L),126	Rider TBA	6-3-1	Schettino	7-2
12	Soundbite(L),126	F Prat	4-4-3	Nevin	9-5

3 1 1/16 miles(T); $115,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Wide trip for the french filly **SHELZAWA** but she still closed well to be 3rd making her US debut at the Spa in June. Moves forward for Chad Brown. **MOONLIT** Clear 2nd in the mud. Choice if we're off turf. **ROMALA** debuted last of 6 on dirt in November. Switches surfaces off the breather for Brown. **HOME WRECKER** was 2nd at 19-1 in front of the compromised Shelzawa.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Saint Tropez(M),121	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Antonacci	8-1
2	Fango Creek(L),121	J Alvarado	4-x-x	Mott	8-1
3	Madeline's Agenda(L),121	J Lezcano	8-x-x	Abreu	30-1
4	Romala(M),121	M Franco	6-x-x	C Brown	10-1
5	Secretly Delighted(M),121	J Castellano	4-2-x	Casse	9-2
6	Shelzawa(FR)(L),121	F Prat	3-x-x	C Brown	5-2
7	Home Wrecker(L),126	J Rosario	2-2-4	Gargan	10-1
8	Nonconsecutivetrms(L),121	T Gaffalione	2-7-2	Walsh	7-2
9	River Empress(L),121	E Zayas	9-4-2	Giddings	20-1
10	Bourbon Milk Punch(L),126	J Ortiz	4-3-2	De Paz	8-1
11	Moonlit(L),121	Rider TBA	2-3-x	Clement	9-5
12	Bourbiana(L),121	F Prat	2-8-x	Walden	5-2

4 6 1/2 fur; $105,000; alw; 3up(f)

We have Prat winning 3 straight with **PRINCESS WADADLI**. Falcone's filly is 2 for 3 after winning at Finger Lakes. Meets better; best value. **LIGHTNING STRIKE** won by open lengths debuting on dirt. Returned 15 months later and landed a midpack 5th on grass. Rebound in cards. **BRITAIN** Outrun in the longer Busanda before heading to the sidelines in January. Scored previously racing 7/8. Castellano rides for Delgado; 1st time lasix. **GRACE AND GRIT** ran well for 2nd with comparable company. Winner 2 of previous 3. Contender. **BASEBALL LADY** moves higher for Rice after scoring at Aqueduct.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Lightning Strike(L),126	M Franco	5-1-x	Clement	9-5
2	Graceful Rose(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-5-3	Gorham	15-1
3	Princess Wadadli(L),126	F Prat	1-5-1	Falcone	8-1
4	Angel Gift(L),122	J Velazquez	5-8-5	Pletcher	12-1
5	Queens Cat(L),126	N Alvarado	6-1-1	Dixon	6-1
6	Baseball Lady(L),122	J Ortiz	1-2-4	Rice	8-1
7	Britain(M),122	J Castellano	5-1-3	Delgado	4-1
8	Grace and Grit(L),126	J Rodriguez	2-1-2	Green	7-2

5 6 fur; $225,000; Sanford; 2YO

The first graded stake of the meet is the Sanford for 2YOs. **ASHCROFT LANE** smashed his debut, winning by 9+ lengths in the slop. **BOOKED** won at 2nd asking with **JACKS GOLDEN GOAL** a debuting 2nd at 29-1 when they met here last month. Changes for Jacks Golden Goal: Rosario on; blinkers on. **POCKET LISTING** (Santa Anita) and **GOODBYE TO ROMANCE** (Aqueduct) move to the stake off easy debut Ws as well. Franco on Pocket Listing; Prat on Goodbye to Romance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Waggley,119	J Alvarado	1-1-x	Ward	6-1
2	Booked,122	R Santana, Jr	1-2-x	Asmussen	3-1
3	Goodbye to Romance,122	F Prat	1-x-x	Antonucci	10-1
4	Pocket Listing,122	M Franco	1-x-x	O'Neill	9-2
5	Vissino,122	J Ortiz	1-x-x	Casse	6-1
6	Jack's Golden Goal,120	J Rosario	2-x-x	Arriaga	8-1
7	Ashcroft Lane,122	D Davis	1-x-x	Falcone	5-1
8	Regent's Park,122	J Velazquez	1-x-x	Delgado	8-1
9	Rasasi,122	T Gaffalione	1-x-x	Sano	10-1

6 5 1/2 fur(T); $105,000; alw; 3up

Seasonal debut for Mike Maker's **KING PUCK**. Went 1 for 4 last year; the win at the Spa, this distance. Does the King need a race? Johnny V will know. **VAN VOLLENHOVEN** was 2nd, **RHYTON** was 9th after leaping at the start and **CRISTOBAL** was 3rd when they clashed at Saratoga in June.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Punto Forty(L),122	J Lezcano	5-5-4	Rice	10-1
2	Cristobal(L),122	M Franco	3-8-5	Falcone	9-2
3	Diamond Child(M),122	J Alvarado	13-3-2	Giddings	30-1
4	Truman's CommanderL,122	E Zayas	4-9-1	Casse	5-1
5	Rhyton(L),126	F Prat	9-1-x	Clement	6-1
6	Stormy Birthday(L),126	J Rodriguez	9-2-3	Ribaudo	15-1
7	Mozambique(L),126	R Silvera	5-5-2	Rodriguez	20-1
8	Guilty(L),126	T Gaffalione	2-7-1	Levine	20-1
9	Three Thirteen(L),122	S Bridgmohan	10-3-1	Giddings	12-1
10	Diliello(L),122	R Santana, Jr	7-1-3	Morley	12-1
11	Van Vollenhoven(L),126	J Castellano	2-6-5	Duggan	7-2
12	King Puck(L),126	J Velazquez	10-7-1	Maker	6-1
13	Lawyer Mason(L),122	M Franco	8-4-5	Morley	15-1
14	Burning Bridges(L),122	D Davis	6-2-1	Casse	8-1
15	Joker On Fire(L),126	J Lezcano	5-2-1	Levine	5-1
16	Counter Move(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-1-3	Weaver	9-2

7 1 1/8 miles(T); $600,000; Belmont Oaks; 3YO(f)

Trainer Charles Appleby brings euro-bred **ABASHIRI** to the US. She's 0 for 2 on turf but 3rd in a Group 1 in Ireland before crossing the pond. Frankel-sired filly may benefit stretching out. Buick in for the ride. **IMAGINATIONTHELADY** is 3 for 5 on grass after winning the Grade 2 Edgewood at Churchill. **ULTIMATE LOVE** is 3 for 5 as well. Thisclose 2nd in the Hilltop at Laurel. Won a stake by open lengths last year. Dangerous, 2nd off the shelf. **FITZ RIGHT** has won 3 in a row, the latest in the Wonder Again at the Spa. And **FAITHFUL DEPARTED** has won 2 straight, the latest in the Regret, this distance at Churchill.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Just Aloof,121	M Franco	4-4-1	C Brown	8-1
2	Time to Dream,121	E Zayas	3-7-2	Pletcher	12-1
3	Kensington Lane(IRE),121	J Rosario	x-x-x	D O'Brien	10-1
4	Faithful Departed,121	J Ortiz	1-1-6	Forster	5-1
5	Storm's Wake,121	D Davis	2-5-1	Lynch	10-1
6	Fitz Right,121	F Prat	1-1-1	C Brown	6-1
7	Carmensita(ARG),125	R Santana, Jr	3-x-x	De Paz	30-1
8	Abashiri(GB),121	W Buick	x-x-x	Appleby	5-2
9	Ultimate Love,121	J Velazquez	2-5-1	Trombetta	10-1
10	Imaginationthelady,121	T Gaffalione	1-2-4	Walsh	4-1

8 1 1/4 miles; $500,000; Suburban; 4up

A troubled 3rd for **HIT SHOW** at Churchill. The 2025 Dubai World Cup winner has won 3 times since, including 2 graded stakes. Franco rides for Brad Cox. Pletchers' **ANTIQUARIAN** was soundly defeated by Nysos in the Met Mile after winning the Westchester. Got beat by a head in last year Suburban before winning the Jockey Club Gold Cup. **YO DADDY** finished up the track in the Pimlico Special. Won 2 of previous 3 including the Excelsior, this distance. Santana at a price. **FORGED STEEL** made it back-to-back wins in the Gold Cup, same distance at Santa Anita. **PHILEAS FOGG** wired optional at the Big A. Won the 2025 Suburban. May be ready to defend title. **PARCHMENT PARTY** won a pair of stakes. Returns to graded company and Saratoga where he's 2 for 2.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Classicist,120	J Castellano	1-3-2	Pletcher	20-1
2	Forged Steel,124	F Prat	1-1-3	Joseph	4-1
3	Yo Daddy,122	R Santana, Jr	6-1-2	Rice	15-1
4	Parchment Party,122	J Lezcano	1-1-1	Mott	8-1
5	Tiztastic,124	J Ortiz	1-8-10	Asmussen	12-1
6	Phileas Fogg,124	K Carmouche	1-3-4	Rodriguez	8-1
7	Antiquarian,124	J Velazquez	4-1-8	Pletcher	3-1
8	Hit Show,124	M Franco	3-1-2	Cox	5-1
9	Stars and Stripes,122	J Alvarado	1-1-2	Mott	6-1
10	Original Sin,122	T Gaffalione	1-1-6	Walsh	10-1
11	Obstacle(BRZ),124	J Rosario	x-x-x	Lobo	30-1

9 1 1/8 miles(T); $750,000; Belmont Derby; 3YO

Appleby and Buick again. **PACIFIC AVENUE** ships from Ireland after running home 3rd in a Group 1 at Curragh. Value play over **WEST END KID.** He's the M/L fave after winning 3 in a row, the latest in the Pennine Ridge. **REMEMBER MAMBA** is 3 for 4. The loss was in the Grade 1 American Turf. **TOUCH OF FIRE** made it back-to-back wins in the Audobon at Churchill. Contender under Prat. **BLACKMAIL** and **BOTTAS** ran home 2-3 behind West End Kid in the Pennine Ridge.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Blackmail,122	J Castellano	2-1-7	Casse	12-1
2	Bottas,122	M Franco	3-9-1	Clement	10-1
3	Remember Mamba,122	J Ortiz	2-1-1	DeVaux	7-2
4	Third Coast,122	J Lezcano	1-5-1	Proctor	20-1
5	Turf Star,122	D Davis	1-9-6	Motion	30-1
6	Pacific Avenue(IRE),122	W Buick	x-x-x	Appleby	6-1
7	Tiernanogue,122	R Santana, Jr	2-1-2	Walsh	10-1
8	West End Kid,122	T Gaffalione	1-1-1	Walden	3-1
9	Title Role(GB),122	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Crisford	5-1
10	Touch of Fire,122	F Prat	1-1-2	Cox	5-1

10 1 mile; $130,000; alw; 4up

Wide open. **FULL SCREEN** Close 4th here in June. Handy winner previous pair including the Queens County. J Ortiz rides for Joseph. **CAPITOL IDEA** Close 4th in a Grade 3. Motts' horse is 2 for 2 at the Spa. **BRAMITO** brings a 3 race winning streak from Aqueduct, all at a mile. Must be considered. **REASONED ANALYISIS** is 2 for 2 at the distance but hasn't raced since April of '25.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bank Frenzy(L),123	M Franco	4-3-3	Rodriguez	8-1
2	Tarantino(L),123	T Gaffalione	1-7-2	Jacobson	8-1
3	Full Screen(L),123	J Ortiz	4-1-1	Joseph	7-2
4	Bourbon Day(L),123	J Lezcano	3-4-1	Rice	6-1
5	Reasoned Analysis(L),121	D Davis	1-3-4	C Brown	8-1
6	Tuscan Sky(L),121	J Velazquez	3-5-5	Pletcher	10-1
7	Capital Idea(L),123	J Alvarado	4-6-2	Mott	4-1
8	Bramito(L),123	R Santana, Jr	1-1-1	Schauer	5-1
9	Warp Nine(L),123	J Castellano	2-2-2	Wyner	15-1
10	Flood Zone(L),123	F Prat	4-3-1	Cox	12-1

11 1 1/16 miles(T); $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

MORNING PRAYER Narrowly defeated, both starts at this distance. **SILLY SEASON** raced well, a neck short when she debuted last November. Makes 2nd start for Chad Brown off the long breather. 1st time lasix. **LYNS LEGACY** (Clement/Franco/Medaglia Doro) makes career debut.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Morning Prayer(L),121	R Santana, Jr	2-4-2	Morley	7-2
2	Coach of the Year(L),121	J Lezcano	11-2-8	Weaver	12-1
3	Lyn's Legacy(M),121	M Franco	x-x-x	Clement	5-1
4	No Ordinary Love(L),126	J Rodriguez	3-5-2	Abreu	8-1
5	Chaumet(L),121	E Zayas	8-x-x	Terranova II	30-1
6	Nobody Knows(M),121	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Pletcher	10-1
7	Probable Choice(L),121	J Castellano	2-7-12	Barrera III	15-1
8	Zap That Ghost(L),126	J Ortiz	6-x-x	Abreu	10-1
9	Tank Girl(L),121	C Gonzalez	5-6-4	Metivier	30-1
10	Force of Mischief(L),121	D Davis	7-6-x	Donk	15-1
11	Silly Season(M),121	F Prat	2-x-x	C Brown	2-1
12	Suited Connectors(L),121	R Santana, Jr	5-x-x	Clement	4-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

No fireworks on Opening Day. Mo For The King (1-1) was a disappointing 3rd. Pillar Of Beauty (8-1) finished 2nd and Salt Princess (8-1) ran off the board. Loss of -$24.84.

Two plays on the holiday. Bet $30 to win on Accent in Race 2 and $4 across the board on Princess Wadadli in Race 4.

— Vic Cangialosi

Saratoga Results

FIRST-1 mile 1 fur; $120,000; alc; 3up

2	McAfee (Velzquz)	10.34	6.08	4.24
3	Chillax (Gaffalione)		11.60	6.46
5	Pretty Boy Miah (Santana,Jr.)			4.56

● $1 Exacta (2-3) $65.88 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-5-1) $146.57 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-5) $144.49

SECOND-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

7	Allura (Gaffalione)	26.40	9.84	5.68
9	Rockabye (Franco)		4.52	3.56
4	Girls Wear Pearls (Prat)			5.32

Scr: Greatest Joy, Space for Grace
● $1 Daily Double (2-7) $110.23 ● $1 Exacta (7-9) $47.50 ● $1 Quinella (7-9) $20.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-9-4-3) $120.95 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-9-4) $194.50

THIRD-6 fur; $105,000; alc; 3up

3	Anyway (Franco)	5.34	3.48	2.16
6	B Provocateur (SantnJr.)		6.84	3.14
1	Mo for the King (Prat)			2.10

Scr: Blue Roof Beau
● $1 Pick 3 (2-7-3) $391.21 ● $1 Daily Double (7-3) $42.00 ● $1 Exacta (3-6) $20.70 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-6-1-2) $27.20 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-6-1) $22.25

FOURTH-7 fur; $41,000; mdn clm($20,0); 3up

1	Rmblyngmnrmbl (Cst)	46.60	16.60	8.24
7	Mr R T (Prat)		4.88	3.46
3	Private Flight (Lezcano)			2.98

Scr: Big Brooklyn
● $1 Pick 3 (7-3-1) $894.50 ● $1 Daily Double (3-1) $66.00 ● $1 Exacta (1-7) $144.25 ● $1 Quinella (1-7) $44.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-7-3-2) $167.50 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-7-3) $253.50

FIFTH-5½ fur; $120,000; alc; 3up (f&m)

7	Oscr's Encr (Ortz)	8.18	4.84	3.90
8	Kilby Girl (Davis)		9.34	7.82
6	One Last Knock (Rodriguez)			4.18

● $1 Pick 3 (3-1-7) $481.00 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (7-3-1-7) $3015.75 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2-7-3-1-7) $26607.79 ● $1 Daily Double (1-7) $173.50 ● $1 Exacta (7-8) $41.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-8-6-4) $243.75 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-8-6) $169.00

SIXTH-1 mile 1 fur; $37,000; cl($12,50); 4up

4	Mttrn's Mus (Ortz)	9.62	4.94	3.02
1	Polr Ber Plunge (SntnJr.)		6.10	3.70
6	Petrolo (Franco)			2.86

Scr: First Trumpet
● $1 Pick 3 (1-7-4) $702.00 ● $1 Daily Double (7-4) $19.60 ● $1 Exacta (4-1) $21.30 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-6-5) $25.25 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-6) $46.62

SEVENTH-7 fur; $120,000; alc; 3up

7	Wht Smk Rsng (Vlzqz)	7.76	4.42	3.52
4	Prvate Desre (Rodrguez)		21.40	8.52
1	Silver Talent (Prat)			3.66

● $1 Pick 3 (7-4-7) $106.25 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1-7-4-7) $2073.00 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3-1-7-4-7) $8207.25 ● $1 Daily Double (4-7) $21.10 ● $1 Exacta (7-4) $99.75 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-4-1-2) $126.70 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-4-1) $151.25

EIGHTH-1 mile; $150,000; Wild Applause; 3Y

7	To a Flame (Ortiz)	7.50	4.58	3.22
11	Pllar of Beauty (Alvardo)		8.10	6.48
10	Code (Prat)			5.50

Scr: Faye's Gold
● $1 Pick 3 (4-7-7) $78.00 ● $1 Daily Double (7-7) $17.80 ● $1 Exacta (7-11) $33.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-11-10-4) $274.30 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-11-10) $105.75

NINTH-6 fur; $200,000; Schuylerville; 2YO F

6	Hrpr's Cornr (Lpz)	26.00	9.42	4.70
1	Voyager (Ortiz)		4.26	2.88
2	Prime Aurora (Velazquez)			2.98

Scr: Costa Linda, Washton
● $1 Pick 3 (7-7-6) $265.50 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (7-4-7-5/7-6) $4633.00 ● $1 Daily Double (7-6) $52.75 ● $1 Exacta (6-1) $53.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-1-2-3) $69.05 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-1-2) $93.75

TENTH-1 1/16 mile; $150,000; Saranac; 3YO

2	Hr's Jhnny (Rdrgz)	32.20	12.20	5.44
9	Blinging It Back (Zayas)		21.40	9.90
7	Glavine (Velazquez)			3.50

Scr: A Little At First, Gulfy
● $1 Grand Slam (1/4/7-5/7/10/11-1/2/6-2) $226.75 ● $1 Pick 3 (7-6-2) $677.50 ● $1 Daily Double (6-2) $170.25 ● $1 Exacta (2-9) $205.75 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-9-7-11) $427.10 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-9-7) $437.50

ELEVENTH-1 1/16 mile; $78,000; alw; 3upf

10	Brokellthruls (Prt)	5.46	4.22	3.86
5	Dividend Recap (Franco)		4.00	3.16
4	Lotus Petal (Zayas)			5.88

Scr: That's Funny, Adrian, Yau Majesty, Bobby Jean
● $1 Pick 6 (4-7-5/7-6-2-1/8/10/11/12) $482.50 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-7-5/7-6-2-1/8/10/11/12) $65792.50 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (6-2-8) $222.25 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-2-10) $943.50 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (5/7-6-2-1/8/10/11/12) $1644.50 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (7-5/7-6-2-1/8/10/11/12) $10632.25 ● $1 Daily Double (2-10) $42.25 ● $1 Exacta (10-5) $9.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (10-5-4-9) $14.75 ● $0.5 Trifecta (10-5-4) $23.12 ● $1 Consolation Double (2-8) $14.70

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	52	33	.612	—	—	9-1	W-9	31-12	21-21
Yankees	49	38	.563	4	+5	3-7	W-1	23-18	26-20
Toronto	42	46	.477	11½	2½	3-7	W-2	24-25	18-21
Baltimore	41	48	.461	13	4	4-6	W-2	24-23	17-25
Boston	38	48	.442	14½	5½	7-3	W-1	17-27	21-21

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	47	42	.528	—	—	6-4	W-3	24-20	23-22
Chicago	45	42	.517	1	+1	5-5	L-3	28-14	17-28
Minnesota	42	47	.472	5	3	4-6	L-1	22-23	20-24
Detroit	38	50	.432	8½	6½	4-6	L-1	23-21	15-29
Kansas City	35	53	.398	11½	9½	3-7	L-3	19-25	16-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	45	43	.511	—	—	7-3	W-1	20-18	25-25
Seattle	45	44	.506	½	—	5-5	L-1	25-20	20-24
Houston	43	47	.478	3	2½	6-4	L-2	21-24	22-23
Athletics	41	47	.466	4	3½	3-7	L-1	19-26	22-21
Los Angeles	36	53	.404	9½	9	4-6	L-4	21-23	15-30

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 5, Minnesota 2
Baltimore 3, Cincinnati 0
Cleveland 4, White Sox 3, 10 inn.
Tampa Bay 3, Houston 1
Boston 5, L.A. Angels 2
Toronto 2, Seattle 0
Miami 12, Athletics 5

Saturday

Minnesota at **Yankees**, 1:35
Detroit at Texas, 4:05
Toronto at Seattle, 4:10
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 7:10
White Sox at Cleveland, 7:10
Tampa Bay at Houston, 7:10
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 8:10
Boston at L.A. Angels, 9:38
Miami at Athletics, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	51	35	.593	—	—	3-7	W-1	26-16	25-19
Philadelphia	49	39	.557	3	+1½	7-3	L-1	25-21	24-18
Miami	47	42	.528	5½	1	7-3	W-1	28-17	19-25
Washington	46	43	.517	6½	2	5-5	W-3	18-25	28-18
Mets	36	52	.409	16	11½	2-8	L-2	19-24	17-28

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	54	32	.628	—	—	7-3	W-1	29-18	25-14
Chicago	49	39	.557	6	+1½	8-2	L-1	26-18	23-21
St. Louis	46	39	.541	7½	—	5-5	W-2	23-21	23-18
Pittsburgh	44	45	.494	11½	4	5-5	L-1	23-22	21-23
Cincinnati	40	47	.460	14½	7	3-7	L-1	19-23	21-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	58	31	.652	—	—	8-2	W-2	28-14	30-17
Arizona	43	44	.494	14	4½	4-6	L-2	26-19	17-25
San Diego	43	44	.494	14	4	3-7	L-7	23-21	20-23
San Francisco	36	51	.414	21	11	5-5	L-1	18-22	18-29
Colorado	36	53	.404	22	12	5-5	W-3	21-24	15-29

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Atlanta 5, **Mets** 3
St. Louis 17, Cubs 1
Baltimore 3, Cincinnati 0
Washington 9, Pittsburgh 5
Milwaukee 7,Arizona 4, 11 inn.
Colorado 15, San Francisco 3
L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 3
Miami 12, Athletics 5

Saturday

Mets at Atlanta, 8:08
Pittsburgh at Washington, 11:05 a.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 7:10
St. Louis at Cubs, 8:08
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 8:10
San Francisco at Colorado, 8:10
Miami at Athletics, 9:40
Milwaukee at Arizona, 9:40
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 32

3	6	1	8	4	5	7	2	9
7	9	4	2	3	1	8	6	5
2	5	8	6	9	7	1	3	4
1	8	5	9	7	2	6	4	3
4	3	7	5	6	8	2	9	1
9	2	6	4	1	3	5	7	8
5	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	6
6	4	2	1	8	9	3	5	7
8	7	9	3	5	6	4	1	2

Solution to Very Easy #7,329

3	2	6	5	8	7	1	9	4
1	7	8	9	4	6	2	3	5
9	4	5	2	1	3	6	7	8
5	6	9	4	3	1	8	2	7
4	8	1	6	7	2	9	5	3
7	3	2	8	5	9	4	1	6
6	9	7	3	2	4	5	8	1
2	5	3	1	6	8	7	4	9
8	1	4	7	9	5	3	6	2

Solution to Difficult #7,119

Yankees 5, Twins 2

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.287
Lee 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Clemens 2b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.244
Bell dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.241
Fedko pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Lewis 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.212
Caratini c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.239
Kreidler cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.269
Gray ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.226
Keaschall rf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.251
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**14**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	3	2	2	2	0	1	.238
Rice dh	3	1	1	2	1	0	.270
Domínguez rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.214
Bellinger lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.252
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.273
Chisholm 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
McMahon 3b	2	1	1	0	1	0	.213
Caballero ss	3	1	1	1	0	0	.247
Wells c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.151
Totals	**28**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**3**	**4**	

Minnesota	**100 100 000 —**	**2**	**6**	**0**
Yankees	**102 000 20x —**	**5**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Minnesota 6, New York 4. **2B:** Lewis (9), Clemens (17), Keaschall (13), McMahon (5). **HR:** Clemens (15), off Cole; Grisham (9), off Paredes; Rice (24), off Paredes. **RBIs:** Clemens (39), Caratini (34), Grisham 2 (37), Rice 2 (56), Caballero (29). **SB:** Domínguez (5), Caballero (20). **SF:** Grisham. **S:** Wells. **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 5 (Lewis 2, Gray, Kreidler, Lee); New York 1 (Goldschmidt). **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 12; New York 1 for 2.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paredes, L, 0-2	4.0	4	3	3	2	2	81	4.60
Funderburk	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	21	4.43
Orze	2.0	2	2	2	1	0	28	5.27

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cole, W, 3-3	5.0	5	2	2	0	7	88	4.01
Headrick, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	1.49
Blackburn, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.34
Cruz, H, 14	1.0	1	0	0	2	0	31	2.39
Bednar, S, 17-19	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	17	3.00

T: 2:40. **A:** 45,104 (47,309).

Rays 3, Astros 1

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.325
Aranda 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.289
Caminero 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.288
Mullins cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.213
DeLuca rf	2	0	0	0	1	2	.260
Mesa lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.181
Williamson 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.238
Walls ss	3	1	0	0	0	0	.229
Fortes c	3	1	2	2	0	0	.260
Totals	**30**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**1**	**8**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.229
Alvarez dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.319
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Walker 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.237
Smith rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.223
Trammell lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Diaz c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.206
Allen ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Delgado ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Totals	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**4**	

Tampa Bay	**000 001 110 —**	**3**	**5**	**1**
Houston	**000 001 000 —**	**1**	**3**	**1**

E: Caminero (13), De Los Santos (1). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 1, Houston 4. **2B:** Fortes (11). **HR:** Fortes (2), off Arrighetti; Caminero (25), off Okert; Alvarez (27), off Martinez. **RBIs:** Fortes 2 (19), Caminero (55), Alvarez (61). **SB:** Walls (13). **CS:** DeLuca (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 1 (Díaz); Houston 2 (Walker, Alvarez). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 1 for 2; Houston 0 for 4.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinez	5.1	3	1	1	1	3	85	2.61
Kelly, W, 5-3	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.41
Legumina, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.06
Baker, S, 23-26	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	1.83

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti	6.0	2	1	1	1	4	73	3.81
Okert, L, 1-1	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	25	2.57
De Los Santos	2.0	2	1	1	0	2	21	4.76

T: 2:21. **A:** 36,039 (41,000).

Braves 5, Mets 3

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf	3	1	0	0	0	0	.263
Taylor ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.202
Soto lf	4	1	2	2	1	1	.297
Bichette 3b	4	0	2	1	1	0	.253
Lindor ss	5	0	1	0	0	1	.215
Benge rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.259
J.Young 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Alvarez dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.250
Baty 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.212
Torrens c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.218
Totals	**38**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**2**	**5**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.251
Albies 2b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.273
Olson 1b	3	2	2	2	1	1	.273
Dubón lf	2	1	0	0	2	1	.267
Harris cf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.296
Smith dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Riley 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.206
Yastrzemski rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Mateo ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.252
Totals	**29**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**11**	

Mets	**002 000 001 —**	**3**	**10**	**0**
Atlanta	**021 010 01x —**	**5**	**5**	**1**

E: Olson (6). **LOB:** New York 10, Atlanta 4. **2B:** Baty (11). **HR:** Soto (18), off Holmes; Harris (15), off Scott; Albies (14), off Scott; Olson (21), off Minter; Olson (22), off Senga. **RBIs:** Soto 2 (41), Bichette (47), Harris 2 (46), Albies (49), Olson 2 (54). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Torrens 2, Lindor, Benge); Atlanta 2 (Smith 2). **RISP:** New York 2 for 5; Atlanta 0 for 2.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott, L, 2-1	4.0	2	3	3	4	7	82	3.49
Minter	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	18	0.60
Senga	2.2	2	1	1	0	4	44	8.66
Gerber	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.17

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holmes, W, 5-4	5.0	5	2	1	1	2	82	3.83
Dodd, H, 3	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	2.35
D.Young, H, 1	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	12	0.00
Fuentes, H, 8	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	23	2.41
Iglesias, S, 17-17	1.0	3	1	1	0	1	22	1.53

T: 2:40. **A:** 39,138 (41,149).

Nationals 9, Pirates 5

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
K.Griffin ss	4	0	2	0	1	0	.273
Lowe dh	4	1	1	1	1	1	.243
Reynolds lf	5	2	2	2	0	2	.282
Valdez rf	5	1	3	1	0	1	.339
O'Hearn 1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Gonzales 2b	5	0	1	1	0	1	.303
Mangum cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.312
Rodríguez c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.260
Triolo 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.238
Totals	**40**	**5**	**13**	**5**	**3**	**7**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.267
García 1b	4	2	2	3	1	0	.283
Tena dh	5	1	1	2	0	0	.224
Abrams ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.273
Crews cf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.230
Lile lf	4	2	3	4	0	0	.256
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Vivas 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.252
Nuñez 2b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.237
Totals	**36**	**9**	**12**	**9**	**3**	**2**	

Pittsburgh	**001 000 004 —**	**5**	**13**	**0**
Washington	**113 000 22x —**	**9**	**12**	**2**

E: Abrams 2 (14). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 11, Washington 6. **2B:** Triolo 2 (10), Lowe (20), Reynolds (21), Valdez (5), Gonzales (12), Lile (20), Wood (22). **3B:** Wood (1). **HR:** Reynolds (12), off F.Griffin; García (17), off Keller; Lile (9), off Keller; Tena (4), off Keller; García (18), off Mattson; Lile (10), off Mattson. **RBIs:** Reynolds 2 (55), Lowe (58), Valdez (16), Gonzales (39), García 3 (62), Lile 4 (43), Tena 2 (18). **SB:** Mangum 2 (16), Abrams (14), Triolo (6), K.Griffin (17). **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 6 (Mangum, Reynolds 2, Triolo, Rodríguez 2); Washington 4 (Tena 2, Ruiz, García). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 4 for 11; Washington 2 for 7.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Keller, L, 6-6	6.0	8	5	5	0	1	83	5.02
Mattson	1.1	3	4	4	1	1	37	4.67
Callihan	0.2	1	0	0	2	0	21	0.00

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
F.Griffin, W, 9-2	5.0	4	1	1	1	2	83	2.87
Ribalta	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	21	3.55
Lawrence	0.2	1	0	0	2	1	26	7.58
Beeter, H, 4	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	5	3.16
Kent	2.0	7	4	4	0	1	41	6.28

T: 2:54. **A:** 30,331 (41,376).

Cardinals 17, Cubs 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.260
Herrera c	4	3	3	2	1	0	.258
Crooks c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.164
Walker rf	4	3	1	0	1	2	.290
Velázquez dh	3	1	0	2	2	0	.286
Burleson 1b	5	1	2	4	0	0	.276
Pagés 1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Winn ss	4	2	2	4	0	1	.253
Torres ph-lf	2	1	1	1	0	0	.245
Fermín lf-ss	5	1	2	1	0	1	.271
Jordan 3b	5	3	3	0	0	1	.246
Church cf	5	2	2	3	0	1	.257
Totals	**43**	**17**	**17**	**17**	**4**	**7**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.287
Dean cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.400
Bregman 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.243
Busch 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Suzuki rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.271
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Alcantara lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Hoerner 2b-ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.241
Conforto dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Kelly c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.280
Swanson ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.208
Ramirez 2b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.259
Totals	**35**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**6**	

St. Louis	**033 532 100 —**	**17**	**17**	**1**
Chicago	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**7**	**1**

E: Burleson (6), Busch (2). **LOB:** St. Louis 7, Chicago 8. **2B:** Fermín 2 (8), Walker (17), Crow-Armstrong (14), Hoerner (22), Bregman (12). **3B:** Ramirez (1). **HR:** Church (8), off Peterson; Winn (4), off Wilson; Torres (4), off Wilson. **RBIs:** Church 3 (28), Velázquez 2 (9), Winn 4 (37), Fermín (16), Burleson 4 (62), Herrera 2 (38), Torres (8), Bregman (31). **SF:** Velázquez. **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 4 (Winn, Jordan, Velázquez 2); Chicago 4 (Busch, Suzuki, Happ, Conforto). **RISP:** St. Louis 7 for 14; Chicago 1 for 8.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante, W, 10-5	5.2	5	0	0	1	2	102	3.60
Rajcic	2.1	2	1	1	0	3	34	5.00
Stanek	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	4.96

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson, L, 4-7	3.2	9	10	10	3	3	91	6.75
Wilson	3.1	8	7	7	1	4	72	6.52
Hollowell	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4.05
Pomeranz	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4.81

T: 2:57. **A:** 39,440 (41,363).

Orioles 3, Reds 0

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	2	1	0	0	2	0	.226
Rutschman dh	4	1	1	0	0	2	.252
Ward lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.251
Alonso 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Basallo c	3	1	1	2	1	0	.257
Beavers rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Cowser cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.223
Alexander 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.303
Holliday 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.190
Totals	**28**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**5**	**7**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	0	1	0	2	1	.273
Stewart 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Steer 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.236
E.Suárez dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.204
Marte rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.202
Bleday lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.237
Stephenson c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.227
McLain cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.194
Friedl ph-cf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.180
Arroyo 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Totals	**31**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**6**	**7**	

Baltimore	**102 000 000 —**	**3**	**4**	**0**
Cincinnati	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**4**	**1**

E: Stephenson (2). **LOB:** Baltimore 3, Cincinnati 10. **2B:** Rutschman (16). **HR:** Basallo (13), off Singer. **RBIs:** Basallo 2 (39). **SB:** De La Cruz 2 (12). **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 1 (Beavers); Cincinnati 4 (E.Suárez, Arroyo, Marte 2). **RISP:** Baltimore 1 for 4; Cincinnati 0 for 5.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers, W, 6-7	5.0	2	0	0	5	4	93	4.70
R.Garcia, H, 12	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	22	2.39
Cano, H, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	2.57
Wells, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.10

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer, L, 3-8	5.0	3	3	2	5	6	93	5.03
Ferguson	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	14	1.62
Petty	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	17	4.37
J.Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.70

T: 2:29. **A:** 22,157 (43,891).

Rockies 15, Giants 3

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.326
Cox 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Schmitt 3b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.281
Ramos rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Devers dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.246
Lee cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.319
Gilbert cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Koss ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.105
Eldridge 1b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.276
Bericoto lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Cavanaugh c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Totals	**34**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**1**	**10**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	5	2	4	6	0	0	.308
Johnston lf	0	0	0	0	1	0	.315
Moniak dh	5	1	2	0	1	1	.283
Goodman c	4	2	2	0	0	1	.246
Fulford ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Rumfield 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.293
Sullivan 1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.219
Carrigg cf	4	2	2	3	1	1	.282
Freeman rf	5	0	1	1	0	0	.272
Julien 2b	4	2	0	1	1	1	.226
Karros 3b	4	3	3	0	1	0	.263
Tovar ss	4	2	3	3	0	0	.212
Totals	**40**	**15**	**18**	**14**	**7**	**6**	

San Francisco	**001 101 000 —**	**3**	**8**	**0**
Colorado	**322 070 01x —**	**15**	**18**	**2**

E: Feltner (1), Karros (8). **LOB:** San Francisco 5, Colorado 9. **2B:** Arraez (19), Goodman (14). **3B:** Carrigg 2 (3), Karros (2). **HR:** Devers (16), off Feltner; McCarthy (8), off Webb; Tovar (7), off Webb; McCarthy (9), off Gage. **RBIs:** Schmitt (44), Eldridge (17), Devers (45), McCarthy 6 (47), Carrigg 3 (16), Tovar 3 (30), Julien (19), Freeman (23). **SB:** Karros (3), McCarthy (14). **SF:** Tovar. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 1 (Gilbert); Colorado 6 (Rumfield, Tovar, Goodman 2, Julien 2). **RISP:** San Francisco 2 for 4; Colorado 7 for 16.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb, L, 5-6	3.0	11	7	7	2	2	76	3.66
Gage	1.1	4	6	6	2	1	51	5.60
Walker	2.2	2	1	1	2	1	43	6.66
Brubaker	1.0	1	1	1	1	2	21	2.89

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner, W, 3-2	6.0	6	3	2	0	9	88	4.27
Hughes, S, 1-1	3.0	2	0	0	1	1	53	0.00

T: 2:53. **A:** 47,655 (50,144).

Guardians 4, White Sox 3. 10 inn.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf-2b	5	1	0	0	0	1	.292
Vargas 3b-1b	3	1	2	3	1	1	.248
Teel c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.206
Benintendi dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.240
C.Montgomery ss-3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.218
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Meidroth 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.271
Acuña pr-ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Peters cf	3	1	1	0	0	2	.286
Grichuk ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Gonzalez 1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Perez ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Totals	**34**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**11**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	5	0	2	1	0	1	.255
Fry lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.215
Watson ph-cf	2	0	1	1	0	1	.271
DeLauter rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Hoskins 1b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.179
Manzardo dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.226
Rocchio ss	3	1	1	0	1	1	.270
Arias 3b	1	1	0	0	1	1	.208
Schneemann ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Hedges c	3	0	1	1	1	2	.271
Kwan cf-lf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.217
Totals	**32**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**13**	

Chicago	**000 030 000 0 —**	**3**	**6**	**1**
Cleveland	**001 000 200 1 —**	**4**	**6**	**0**

E: Antonacci (2). **LOB:** Chicago 5, Cleveland 8. **HR:** Vargas (20), off Williams. **RBIs:** Vargas 3 (55), Bazzana (27), Hedges (13), Kwan (14), Watson (9). **S:** Gonzalez, Kwan. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 2 (Antonacci, B.Montgomery); Cleveland 2 (Bazzana 2). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 7; Cleveland 5 for 8.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kay	4.0	1	1	1	2	2	48	4.39
Hicks	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	20	4.50
Murphy, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	3.79
Domínguez, H, 3	0.1	0	2	2	2	1	16	4.85
Hudson, BS, 3-5	0.2	2	0	0	0	2	15	2.31
Richards	2.0	0	0	0	1	3	28	3.69
Newcomb, L, 0-2	0.0	2	1	0	0	0	9	2.66

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams	4.2	5	3	3	2	6	79	3.89
Aleman	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.25
Gaddis	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.24
Holderman	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	1.67
Smith	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2.97
Sabrowski, W, 3-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.24

T: 2:48. **A:** 33,646 (34,788).

Red Sox 5, Angels 2

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Eaton rf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.143
Rafaela cf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.284
Abreu dh	4	1	1	0	1	2	.266
Contreras 1b	4	1	2	0	1	0	.286
Durbin 3b	3	2	1	1	1	0	.230
Gonzalez 2b	4	1	3	2	0	1	.333
Duran lf	2	0	0	2	0	1	.194
Monasterio ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.219
Narváez c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.194
Totals	**35**	**5**	**11**	**5**	**3**	**10**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	.228
Schanuel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Guzman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.253
Soler dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.221
Grissom 2b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.238
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Siri cf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.267
Lowe lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.215
O'Hoppe c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Heineman c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Totals	**33**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**0**	**7**	

Boston	**013 010 000 —**	**5**	**11**	**0**
Los Angeles	**000 000 020 —**	**2**	**7**	**1**

E: Schanuel (5). **LOB:** Boston 8, Los Angeles 4. **2B:** Abreu (17), Contreras (15). **3B:** Gonzalez (1). **HR:** Durbin (8), off Detmers; Siri (5), off Bennett. **RBIs:** Duran 2 (41), Gonzalez 2 (2), Durbin (37), Siri (17), Neto (43). **SB:** Rafaela (11). **SF:** Duran. **S:** Duran. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 4 (Contreras, Narváez 2, Durbin); Los Angeles 0. **RISP:** Boston 2 for 7; Los Angeles 1 for 2.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bennett, W, 3-3	7.2	5	2	2	0	6	92	3.10
Whitlock, H, 13	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.57
Chapman, S, 17-19	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	13	2.10

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Detmers, L, 3-6	5.0	7	5	5	3	5	104	4.13
Fermin	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	23	3.38
Farris	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	31	3.72
Yates	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	2.89

T: 2:35. **A:** 43,747 (45,517).

Dodgers 4, Padres 3

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	1	0	0	1	4	.277
Cronenworth 2b	3	0	2	0	1	1	.177
Machado dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.190
Sheets lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.235
France 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Merrill cf	4	2	2	1	0	2	.215
Bogaerts ss	4	0	1	1	0	0	.233
Song 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Taylor ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.329
Durán c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.137
Andujar ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.264
Totals	**34**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**14**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh-p-dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.288
Rojas ph-dh	1	0	1	0	0	0	.291
Pages cf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.269
Freeman 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.293
Betts ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.244
Muncy 3b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.268
Tucker rf	4	1	0	0	0	0	.246
Hernández lf	4	1	1	4	0	1	.269
Rushing c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.264
Freeland 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.223
Edman ph-2b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.378
Totals	**29**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**5**	**5**	

San Diego	**100 101 000 —**	**3**	**8**	**1**
Los Angeles	**000 000 40x —**	**4**	**5**	**0**

E: Cronenworth (2). **LOB:** San Diego 7, Los Angeles 6. **2B:** Bogaerts (7), Rojas (8). **HR:** Merrill (10), off Ohtani; Hernández (8), off Morejon. **RBIs:** Sheets (39), Merrill (33), Bogaerts (33), Hernández 4 (36). **SB:** Song (7). **CS:** Edman (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 4 (Machado, Merrill, Durán 2); Los Angeles 2 (Freeman 2). **RISP:** San Diego 2 for 8; Los Angeles 1 for 4.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King	6.0	3	2	2	2	5	75	3.52
Morejon, L, 6-2, BS, 1-6	1.0	2	2	1	2	0	24	3.45
Rodriguez	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	2.00

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ohtani	6.0	7	3	3	2	9	110	1.79
Hurt, W, 3-1	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	16	3.45
Henriquez, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.60
Scott, S, 12-13	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	18	2.02

T: 2:22. **A:** 49,578 (56,000).

Blue Jays 2, Mariners 0

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.292
Guerrero 1b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.268
Okamoto 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Kirk c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Piñango lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.267
Straw pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Clement 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.295
Keys dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.250
Giménez ss	3	1	1	1	1	0	.238
Totals	**34**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**5**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.216
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.280
Canzone dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.269
Wilson pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Raleigh c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.160
Naylor 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.251
Raley rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Young 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.259
Robles cf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.240
Emerson ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.208
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**12**	

Toronto	**002 000 000 —**	**2**	**6**	**0**
Seattle	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**4**	**2**

E: Crawford (9), Young (5). **LOB:** Toronto 8, Seattle 5. **2B:** Giménez (14), Keys (1), Crawford (7). **RBIs:** Giménez (35), Guerrero (35). **S:** Lukes. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 2 (Lukes, Kirk); Seattle 2 (Arozarena, Canzone). **RISP:** Toronto 1 for 4; Seattle 0 for 4.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease, W, 5-4	7.0	3	0	0	1	9	102	2.79
Hoffman, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	24	4.42
Varland, S, 18-18	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	0.96

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Castillo, L, 3-7	6.0	5	2	2	1	4	101	4.79
Ferrer	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	2.43
Rucker	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	24	6.48
Davila	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.45

T: 2:28. **A:** 45,391 (47,929).

Marlins 12, Athletics 5

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks c-1b	4	3	1	0	2	1	.282
Stowers 1b	5	3	4	3	0	0	.243
Mack c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Lopez ss	5	1	2	0	0	1	.337
Edwards 2b	2	1	0	2	2	0	.299
Hernández lf	5	1	2	3	0	1	.223
Ruiz pr-lf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.244
Conine rf	4	0	0	0	1	3	.250
Caissie dh	5	1	1	2	0	3	.238
Marsee cf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.189
Jiménez 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Sanoja 3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.281
Totals	**37**	**12**	**11**	**11**	**7**	**12**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kurtz 1b	4	1	2	2	1	2	.282
Langeliers c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.264
Heim ph-c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Butler rf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.198
Thomas lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Kuroda-Grauer 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.400
Cortes dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.277
Bolte cf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.293
McNeil 2b	4	0	1	3	0	0	.229
Williams ss	4	1	1	0	0	2	.301
Totals	**35**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**4**	**8**	

Miami	**610 001 022 —**	**12**	**11**	**0**
Athletics	**002 300 000 —**	**5**	**9**	**1**

E: Williams (3). **LOB:** Miami 7, Athletics 7. **2B:** Williams (7), McNeil (11). **HR:** Hernández (9), off Perkins; Marsee (5), off Perkins; Stowers (9), off Sterner; Stowers (10), off Barnett; Caissie (11), off Barnett; Kurtz (20), off Phillips. **RBIs:** Edwards 2 (34), Hernández 3 (32), Marsee (22), Stowers 3 (37), Caissie 2 (49), Kurtz 2 (66), McNeil 3 (25). **SB:** Lopez (17), Ruiz (17). **CS:** Marsee (10). **SF:** Edwards. **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 4 (Conine 2, Hernández 2); Athletics 4 (Thomas 2, Kuroda-Grauer, Williams). **RISP:** Miami 4 for 7; Athletics 2 for 9.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Phillips	3.1	7	5	5	2	2	71	3.52
Petersen	0.2	0	0	0	2	1	21	3.16
Zuber, H, 3	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	13	4.82
Faucher, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	20	4.25
Bachar, W, 1-0	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	24	2.87
Kempner	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Perkins, L, 2-4	3.2	7	7	7	4	8	91	6.75
Suarez	1.1	0	0	0	1	0	19	4.87
Sterner	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	8	4.08
Leiter	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	4.70
Barnett	2.0	3	4	4	2	2	45	3.12

T: 3:00. **A:** 10,312 (14,014).

FIFA World Cup

ROUND OF 32
Sunday, June 28
South Africa 0, Canada 1
Monday, June 29
Brazil 2, Japan 1
Germany 1, Paraguay 1, Paraguay advances 4-3 on penalty kicks
Netherlands 1, Morocco 1, Morocco advances 3-2 on penalty kicks
Tuesday, June 30
Norway 2, Ivory Coast 1
France 3, Sweden 0
Mexico 2, Ecuador 0
Wednesday, July 1
England 2, Congo 1
Belgium 3, Senegal 2, AET
United States 2, Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Thursday
Spain 3, Austria 0
Portugal 2, Croatia 1
Switzerland 2, Algeria 0
Friday
Australia 1, Egypt 1 FT (Egypt advance 4-2 on penalties)
Argentina 3, Cape Verde 2, AET
Colombia 1, Ghana 0
ROUND OF 16
Saturday
Canada vs. Morocco, 1pm
Paraguay vs. France, 5pm
Sunday
Brazil vs. Norway, 4pm
Mexico vs. England, 8pm
Monday
Portugal vs. Spain, 3pm
United States vs. Belgium, 8pm
Tuesday
Argentina vs. Egypt, 12pm
Switzerland vs. Colombia, 4pm

This Date in Sports

1930 — Helen Wills Moody wins her fourth straight singles title at Wimbledon with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Elizabeth Ryan. Moody would go on to win four more Wimbledon singles titles.
1954 — FIFA World Cup Final, Wankdorf Stadium, Bern, Switzerland: Helmut Rahn scores twice as West Germany beats Hungary, 3-2.
1964 — Maria Bueno of Brazil upsets Margaret Smith of Australia 6-4, 7-9, 6-3 for the women's title at Wimbledon.
1975 — Billie Jean King beats Evonne Goolagong, 6-0, 6-1 for her sixth and final singles title at Wimbledon.
1982 — Jimmy Connors beats John McEnroe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 for the men's singles championship at Wimbledon. The match lasts 4 hours, 16 minutes.
1987 — Martina Navratilova wins her eighth Wimbledon singles title and sixth straight, beating Steffi Graf 7-5, 6-3.
1994 — FIFA World Cup: A Bebeto strike saves Brazil from embarrassment, beat USA 1-0 at Stanford.
1999 — Pete Sampras overwhelms Andre Agassi in three sets to capture his sixth Wimbledon title and tie Roy Emerson's record with his 12th Grand Slam championship. Sampras is the first man in the Open era with six Wimbledon titles.
2002 — Venus and Serena Williams win in straight sets to set up their third title match at a major in 10 months — and the first all-sister Wimbledon final since 1884. Top-seeded Venus, the two-time defending champion, overpowers Justine Henin 6-3, 6-2. Second-seeded Serena routs Amelie Mauresmo 6-2, 6-1 in 55 minutes.
2003 — LA Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant is arrested in Eagle, Colorado for sexual assault, charges eventually dismissed.
2004 — UEFA European Championship Final, Estádio da Luz, Lisbon, Portugal: In a huge upset Greece beats host nation Portugal, 1-0.
2004 — Meg Mallon wins the Women's U.S. Open with a 6-under 65, the lowest final round by a champion in the 59-year history of the tournament. Mallon finishes at 10-under 274 for a two-shot victory over Annika Sorenstam.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	8	4	1	25	19	13
Washington	7	2	3	24	20	10
Utah Royals FC	7	2	3	24	18	10
Portland	7	3	3	24	20	14
Kansas City	8	5	0	24	21	17
Gotham FC	6	2	3	21	12	5
North Carolina	5	3	3	18	17	13
Orlando	5	6	2	17	18	19
Angel City	5	6	1	16	18	14
Denver Summit FC	4	5	3	15	17	16
Seattle	4	5	2	14	10	13
Houston	4	7	2	14	15	21
Bay FC	3	6	2	11	9	17
Boston Legacy FC	2	7	3	9	11	19
Chicago	3	9	0	9	5	24
Louisville	2	8	1	7	15	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday
Washington 2, Houston 1
Kansas City 3, Denver Summit FC 0
Angel City 2, Orlando 0
Saturday
Seattle at North Carolina, 7:30pm
Gotham FC at San Diego, 8:45pm
Sunday
Bay FC at Boston Legacy FC, 12pm
Utah Royals FC at Chicago, 5pm
Louisville at Portland, 7pm
Friday, July 10
Chicago at Boston Legacy FC, 8pm
Bay FC at Louisville, 8pm
Kansas City at Orlando, 8pm
Gotham FC at Utah Royals FC, 10pm
Saturday, July 11
Washington at North Carolina, 6:30pm
Angel City at San Diego, 8:45pm
Sunday, July 12
Portland at Seattle, 4pm
Houston at Denver Summit FC, 7pm
Wednesday, July 15
Boston Legacy FC at Orlando, 7pm
Washington at **Gotham FC**, 8pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Friday
Miami 88, San Antonio 87
Golden State 104, L.A. Lakers 72
Saturday
Nets vs. Kings, 5pm
Memphis vs. Oklahoma City, 3pm
Milwaukee vs. Golden State, 3pm
Atlanta vs. Utah, 5pm
Sunday
Nets vs. Bucks, 3pm
Miami vs. L.A. Lakers, 4:30pm
Golden State vs. Sacramento, 5pm
San Antonio vs. Golden State, 7pm
Monday
Golden State vs. **Nets**, 8pm
L.A. Lakers vs. San Antonio, 7:30pm
Atlanta vs. Oklahoma City, 7pm
Memphis vs. Utah, 9pm
Miami vs. Golden State, 10pm
Milwaukee vs. Sacramento, 10pm
Tuesday
Atlanta vs. Memphis, 7pm
Oklahoma City vs. Utah, 9pm
Thursday
Minnesota vs. New Orleans, 3:30pm
San Antonio vs. Atlanta, 4:30pm
Detroit vs. Philadelphia, 5:30pm
Golden State vs. Dallas, 7pm
Charlotte vs. Orlando, 7:30pm
Utah vs. Washington, 9pm
Sacramento vs. L.A. Clippers, 11pm
Friday
Nets vs. **Knicks**, 6pm
Milwaukee vs. Miami, 4pm
Cleveland vs. Indiana, 4:30pm
Houston vs. Denver, 6:30pm
Chicago vs. Memphis, 8pm
Boston vs. Toronto, 9pm
Oklahoma City vs. L.A. Lakers, 10pm
Portland vs. Phoenix, 11pm

Friday's Crossword Answers

■	T	T	U	■	■	T	E	E	M	■
R	H	A	M	E	■	U	C	L	A	■
Y	O	H	A	N	■	R	U	M	U	N
A	M	I	■	D	A	L	■	E	R	A
N	E	R	A	■	G	E	H	R	I	G
■	■	■	O	K	O	Y	E	■	■	■
N	I	E	K	R	O	■	C	O	B	B
A	M	T	■	A	S	A	■	L	I	O
M	A	T	S	U	■	B	O	S	O	X
■	M	E	T	S	■	P	R	O	L	Y
■	S	N	E	E	■	■	R	N	A	■

FUTURE IS NOW: Islanders coaches say young defenseman Isaiah George, 22, has the inside track to win a roster spot this offseason. Dennis A. Clark

Isles want D-Man to earn roster spot

By ANDREW CRANE

If Isaiah George needed validation, a reminder that, yes, he still exists in the Islanders' plans after a rocky two-year stretch, Mathieu Darche and Peter DeBoer just provided plenty.

Following the NHL draft, Darche said he wanted George to earn a roster spot in training camp. Then, after the opening day of free agency, the general manager doubled down. DeBoer echoed a similar sentiment one day later.

After two years of injuries and limited windows and missed opportunities, George, still just a 22-year-old defensive prospect, will arrive at the Northwell Health Ice Center in late summer with the inside track to crack the opening night roster. Defenseman Adam Boqvist didn't receive a qualifying offer. Matthew Kessel, who the Islanders signed in free agency, possesses limited upside. But a sense of urgency still looms for George, a fourth-round pick from 2022 without much of a sample (37 NHL games) to get judged on yet.

"He has to do it," Alexander Ivanov, his longtime skating coach and a head pro skills instructor at the RHA Hockey Academy, told The Post of George making the roster. "Like he has to. He has ability, no problem. He has the shot, skating. ... Every tool, he has it."

The tricky part: waiting for the rest of the depth chart to take shape around the left-handed defenseman. Matthew Schaefer will occupy a spot on the top pairing, though DeBoer hinted this week that doesn't necessarily need to be on the left side.

Alexander Romanov remains under contract for the next seven years but skated in just 15 games in 2025-26. Adam Pelech avoided an injury last year, but now he needs to do it again. And on the right side, Ryan Pulock and Scott Mayfield both have four seasons left on their deals, while Tony DeAngelo just re-signed. The lone change, which created the potential window for George, was the Boqvist decision.

George skated in 33 games for the Islanders during his rookie season, but that number dropped last year, when he collected 18 points across 47 AHL games and an assist in four games with the Islanders. He was the last cut of training camp. He dealt with injuries as a handful of AHL Bridgeport defensemen also cycled through chances with the Islanders.

"I feel like the first year I came into camp, I've always had the same mentality of just to put my best foot forward and do everything I can to make the team," George told The Post on Wednesday. "And obviously, when I was younger, probably my first camp, that wasn't a realistic goal, and obviously now, as I've gained more experience and proven myself, now it's more realistic."

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The POST Line

MLB
Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	$135-160	Twins
BRAVES	$141-173	**Mets**
Tigers	-108-115	RANGERS
Blue Jays	$108-132	MARINERS
Rays	-110-111	ASTROS
GUARDIANS	$118-143	White Sox
Red Sox	$134-163	ANGELS
Pirates	$131-160	NATIONALS
CUBS	$129-158	Cardinals
ROCKIES	OFF	Giants
Brewers	$126-155	D'BACKS
DODGERS	$219-275	Padres
REDS	$104-126	Orioles
Phillies	$124-155	ROYALS
Marlins	-101-121	ATHLETICS

Home team in CAPS

FIFA World Cup
Saturday- Round of 16

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Morocco	$180-235	Canada
**France	$725-1200	Paraguay
*Houston, **Philadelphia		
	Sunday	
*Brazil	$180-235	Norway
**England	$105-135	Mexico
*MetLife Stadium, **Mexico City		
	Monday	
*Belgium	-105-120	United States
**Spain	$170-220	Portugal
*Seattle, **Arlington, TX		
	Tuesday	
Argentina	$425-625	Egypt
game held in Atlanta		

CFL
Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Elks	1.5 (58.5)	LIONS
	Sunday	
TIGER-CATS	3.5 (57.5)	Blue Bombers

WNBA
Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
DREAM	3.5 (161.5)	Valkyries
STORM	3.5 (168.5)	Fire
	Sunday	
ACES	6.5 (183.5)	Fever

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Ohtani removed from start

Shortly after completing a six-inning, three-run start on the mound against the Padres Friday night, the Dodgers' **Shohei Ohtani** was removed from the game as a hitter in the bottom of the seventh, when **Miguel Rojas** pinch-hit for him shortly after a go-ahead grand slam from **Teoscar Hernández**. The Dodgers would go on to win 4-3.

The reason for Ohtani's removal was not immediately clear, but the two-way star has been battling a knee issue over the last month — one that dated back to a pitching appearance in Pittsburgh on June 10 and forced him to miss a game later that same week.

● In Houston, **Nick Fortes** homered and hit a run-scoring double, and the Rays beat the Astros 3-1 to extend the longest active win streak in the major leagues to nine games.

● In Chicago, **Nathan Church** and **Masyn Winn** hit three-run homers and the Cardinals had 17 hits overall to cool off the Cubs 17-1.

TENNIS: Djokovic equals record

Novak Djokovic saw **Arthur Rinderknech** falling toward the Centre Court net after a volley and said to himself, "Please stay down."

The Frenchman did — and 39-year-old Djokovic dove to hit a backhand volley winner on match point for a 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) record-equaling victory in the third round at Wimbledon in London.

Djokovic's 105th match win at the All England Club ties **Roger Federer** on the men's list for most singles match victories. **Martina Navratilova** won 120 singles matches at Wimbledon.

Defending champion **Jannik Sinner** beat **Jenson Brooksby** 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 on No. 1 Court to advance to the fourth round.

In women's play, No. 1 **Aryna Sabalenka** and **Naomi Osaka** meet for a spot in the quarterfinals after both players won in straight sets. **Coco Gauff** got past fellow American **Claire Liu** 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3 and will next face 11th-sseded **Belinda Bencic**.

NBA: Celtics sign Queta

The Celtics signed center **Neemias Queta** to a four-year extension with ESPN first reporting the deal by citing agent **Bill Duffy** in saying the extension was worth $56 million.

● **Deandre Ayton** is being traded from the Lakers to the Wizards, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. The Lakers have agreed to send Ayton to Washington for **Jaden Hardy** and second-round draft picks in 2031 and 2032,

NHL: Flyers ink Carlsson to $90M deal

The Flyers are prepared to pay Anaheim center **Leo Carlsson** the highest annual salary at $18 million since the salary cap era began in 2005, now giving the Ducks seven days to match the offer.

The Flyers tendered the five-year, $90 million offer sheet to Carlsson, which would require four of the Flyers first-round draft picks in each of the next four seasons as compensation.

GOLF: Glover builds Deere lead

Lucas Glover has compiled 14 birdies and no bogeys over the first two rounds to take a two-stroke lead midway through the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Ill.

TOP PLAY

Short outing for Manaea

By DYLAN SVOBODA

The pitching-hungry Mets have needed Sean Manaea to stabilize the back of their rotation. For the most part, he has done enough to keep them in games.

Expecting him to work deep into Saturday's game against the Braves is different.

Manaea gets another look at Atlanta after completing six innings against the Braves earlier this month, the only start of four in which he reached that mark since rejoining the Mets' rotation last month.

That outing was solid, but it should be viewed more as the ceiling than the norm.

Manaea has been running up high pitch counts. Even when he avoids major damage, getting through a lineup three times has not been easy.

He lasted $5\frac{2}{3}$ innings in his latest start against the Blue Jays, getting pulled after a two-out walk in the sixth inning and 90 total pitches. In his prior outing, Manaea tossed a whopping 86 pitches over just three innings in a laborious outing versus the Cubs. Those outings feel like the more realistic path again here.

The Braves have one of the best offenses in baseball, with enough power and patience to make Manaea work. They also already saw him recently, which should only make this assignment more difficult.

Manaea does not need to get hit hard for this bet to cash.

He can be useful in a small dose and keep the Mets competitive while still falling short if Atlanta forces long at-bats and pushes him near the 90-pitch range before the sixth inning is over, as has become the norm for the southpaw.

THE PLAY: Sean Manaea to go under his outs prop

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Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Twins	Matthews (R)		4-5	4.15	4-5	0-2	12.46	0-2	2-1	20.0	2.25
Yankees	Beck (R)	(1:35pm)	0-0	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mets	Manaea (L)		1-3	4.71	1-3	0-1	3.00	0-2	0-1	14.0	4.50
Braves	Sale (L)	(8:08pm)	8-6	2.10	9-6	0-0	0.00	2-0	0-2	17.1	1.56
Orioles	Young (R)		6-2	3.11	10-3	0-0	6.75	0-0	1-1	16.0	3.38
Reds	Greene (R)	(7:10pm)	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	15.00	0-1	1-0	17.1	3.63
Phillies	Luzardo (L)		6-4	3.88	11-6	—	—	1-0	1-0	18.2	1.93
Royals	Wacha (R)	(8:10pm)	5-5	3.31	5-12	—	—	4-3	1-0	20.2	2.18
Marlins	Alcantara (R)		9-4	4.20	12-6	—	—	0-0	3-0	18.1	3.93
Athletics	Civale (R)	(9:40pm)	5-5	5.05	6-8	—	—	1-0	0-3	12.0	8.25
Tigers	Flaherty (R)		1-8	4.97	4-12	0-0	9.82	1-1	0-1	13.0	3.46
Rangers	Rocker (R)	(4:05pm)	2-6	3.82	6-8	0-1	22.50	1-1	0-1	14.0	5.14
Blue Jays	Bieber (R)		0-0	6.00	0-2	0-0	0.00	2-2	1-0	14.0	5.14
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	(4:10pm)	6-5	3.42	10-7	0-0	3.86	0-2	2-1	20.1	2.66
White Sox	Burke (R)		5-4	3.69	5-8	1-0	1.42	1-2	1-1	15.2	4.02
Guardians	Messick (L)	(7:10pm)	7-5	2.85	10-7	0-1	2.35	1-1	1-2	20.1	3.54
Rays	Rasmussen (R)		7-4	2.45	9-7	0-0	0.00	2-2	1-2	19.0	1.42
Astros	Brown (R)	(7:10pm)	1-0	1.78	3-2	1-1	4.09	3-1	0-0	14.2	2.45
Red Sox	Gray (R)		9-1	2.69	11-4	0-0	7.50	5-2	1-0	21.1	1.69
Angels	Aldegheri (L)	(9:38pm)	3-3	4.85	3-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	12.2	8.53
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)		8-3	3.33	11-6	0-0	3.18	0-0	3-0	18.0	3.50
Nationals	Littell (R)	(11:05am)	7-6	5.29	7-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	11.2	8.49
Cardinals	Leahy (R)		6-4	4.09	7-9	0-0	2.08	0-0	1-1	17.1	2.08
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	(8:08pm)	5-6	4.30	8-9	0-1	8.44	2-2	1-0	17.1	3.63
Giants	Ray (L)		7-6	3.39	10-6	0-0	2.25	6-6	2-0	21.2	2.08
Rockies	Sugano (R)	(8:10pm)	8-4	4.80	10-6	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-0	16.0	7.88
Brewers	Woodruff (R)		2-1	2.59	5-3	0-0	0.00	3-1	0-0	13.0	0.00
D'backs	Kelly (R)	(9:40pm)	5-8	5.84	5-9	0-1	9.00	5-3	0-3	17.1	7.27
Padres	Canning (R)		1-5	7.08	2-7	0-0	5.40	3-1	0-1	14.1	6.28
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)	(10:10pm)	8-5	2.67	10-5	1-1	2.08	2-3	2-1	20.1	2.66

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Seattle for Star-Spangled Stitches

Happy Fourth of July! Cooling centers have been open all week, but this ice cold 'capper doesn't need any help. Maybe a wellness check?

We will squeeze the Blue Jays/Mariners game between the holiday barbecue and the annual Stitch-sanctioned Wiffle ball tournament. Toronto's Shane Bieber has made two starts since returning from the injured list. Biebs has allowed six runs over nine innings and issued four free passes. You know how wild those Biebers can get. Seattle's Logan Gilbert was shelled at Cleveland but gave up just three runs in his previous $19\frac{1}{3}$ innings. Play $50 on Gilbert and the Mariners.

-$

I'm not sure when the last time the clock was cleaned at Wrigley Field, but it's spotless now. Chicago got its clock cleaned by the rival Cardinals. Final: 17-1. David Peterson looked like a Met again, allowing 10 runs over $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings. Free fireworks show as well. The Cards launched three rockets over the Ivy wall. Down -215 joeychestnuts.

stitches@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST ACTION

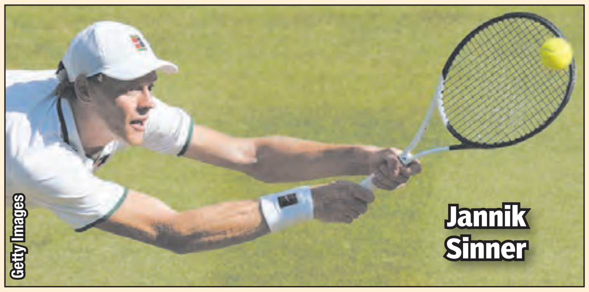
Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 4	SUN July 5	MON July 6	TUE July 7	WED July 8
	Minnesota 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Minnesota 1:35 NBCSN 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Atlanta 8:08 Fox 880 AM	Atlanta 12:30 NBC Peacock 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM	Kansas City 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Kansas City 7:10 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Dallas 8:00 ESPN	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday, July 22		Today	
	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		San Diego Wave FC 8:45 ION

TENNIS



Getty Images

Wimbledon singles champion odds

MEN'S	ODDS	WOMEN'S ODDSS	
Jannik Sinner	-175	Aryna Sabalenka	+250
Novak Djokovic	+500	Elena Rybakina	+550
Taylor Fritz	10/1	Iga Swiatek	+800
Alexander Zverev	12/1	Jessica Pegula	+850
Felix Auger-Aliassime	20/1	Naomi Osaka	11/1
Matteo Berrettini	35/1	Karolina Muchova	18/1
Alex De Minaur	35/1	Coco Gauff	18/1
Grigor Dimitrov	50/1	Amanda Anisimova	19/1
Frances Tiafoe	55/1	Madison Keys	19/1
Hubert Hurkacz	80/1	Linda Noskova	20/1
Flavio Cobolli	80/1	Belinda Bencic	20/1
Alexander Bublik	80/1	Iva Jovic	20/1
Roman Safiullin	80/1	Marta Kostyuk	22/1
Jiri Lehecka	100/1	Barbora Krejcikova	25/1
A. Davidovich Fokina	100/1	Emma Navarro	55/1
Karen Khachanov	125/1	Alexandra Eala	60/1
Jaume Munar	175/1	Jasmine Paolini	75/1

WNBA

WNBA champion

TEAM	ODDS
Lynx	+150
Aces	+370
Liberty	+390
Dream	+800
Valkyries	14/1
Fever	22/1
Wings	27/1
Mercury	200/1
Sparks	200/1
Mystics	250/1
Sky	500/1
Storm	500/1
Sun	500/1
Tempo	500/1
Fire	500/1

To reach WNBA Finals

TEAM	ODDS
Lynx	-185
Aces	+115
Liberty	+165
Dream	+260
Valkyries	+440
Wings	+750
Fever	+750
Sparks	40/1
Mercury	50/1
Mystics	50/1
Tempo	100/1
Sky	175/1
Storm	300/1
Fire	300/1
Sun	300/1

ODDS & ENDS

FIFA WORLD CUP

Round of 16

Saturday

Canada vs. Morocco

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Canada	+370
Draw	+230
Morocco	-120
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+124
Under 2.5	-152

Paraguay vs. France

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Paraguay	17/1
Draw	+600
France	-600
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-152
Under 2.5	+124

Sunday

Brazil vs. Norway

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Brazil	-125
Draw	+260
Norway	+360
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-142
Under 2.5	+116

Mexico vs. England

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Mexico	+210
Draw	+210
England	+140
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+138
Under 2.5	-170

Monday

Portugal vs. Spain

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Portugal	+310
Draw	+260
Spain	-115
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-106
Under 2.5	-114

United States vs. Belgium

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	+175
Draw	+230
Belgium	+155
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-140
Under 2.5	+114
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Romelu Lukaku	+170
Ricardo Pepi	+200
Christian Pulisic	+220
Charles De Ketelaere	+250
Kevin De Bruyne	+280
Dodi Lukebakio	+300
Leandro Trossard	+300
Jeremy Doku	+320
Brenden Aaronson	+320
Malik Tillman	+370
Hans Vanaken	+390

ET SMART

Reuters

MAKE A KYL-LING: Pairing a goal from Kylian Mbappé with France and Paraguay going over 2.5 goals on Saturday in the World Cup's Round of 16 is a wager The Post's Sean Treppedi likes at +238 odds with DraftKings.

Brace for Mbappé, France to cruise

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Leave fireworks off the shopping list; the French are providing them for this year's Fourth of July party.

Les Bleus, who enter the Round of 16 as +184 favorites to win the tournament, cruise into Philadelphia on the heels of a 3-0 thrashing of Sweden. The French fashioned a host of chances, generating 12 shots on goal and 3.24 xG.

Much thanks, of course, to Golden Boot favorite Kylian Mbappé, whose brace tied Lionel Messi with six for the tournament lead at the time and moved within one of Messi's all-time record. It was Mbappé's fourth multi-goal game in a World Cup knockout match — good for twice as many as any other player in tournament history.

While on the subject of records, France now have scored at least three goals in each of their last five World Cup matches, the tournament's all-time longest streak.

Against Paraguay, they're favored at a -600 price tag on the three-way moneyline at FanDuel. Paraguay is the Round of 16's biggest long shot at 17/1.

Paraguay gets to play the role of David again after stunning Germany in the World Cup's most shocking upset so far.

La Albirroja's resilience against a German team that hounded the ball to a 75 percent possession share and led 1.57 to 0.35 in expected goals (xG) certainly counts for something. Winning 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw might just have been the only path where Paraguay came away on top.

Slaying France would mean felling a much greater Goliath, however.

Between Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé, Michael Olise and Bradley Barcola, *Les Bleus*' offensive creativity is boundless. This quartet can blitz opponents at will with rapid transitions, acute passing and clinical finishing. With that luxury on hand, Didier Deschamps' philosophy of defensive pragmatism keeps the game at low risk while allowing big moments to surface through counterattacking.

With a measly eight shots on target through their first four World Cup matches, Paraguay simply is not equipped to disrupt this scheme. Their output is heavily inflated relative to chance quality, potting only three goals from 1.5 xG across those matches. Now, imagine that inefficiency exposed against a French defense that produced a clean sheet against a formidable Swedish attack that had scored in every group match.

The Paraguayans bank upon deep defending and low possession; they are second-to-last amongst the tournament in possession share with a 31.2 percent clip. Unlike Germany, France won't allow this match to settle into that kind of randomness. They don't overcommit in transition, which caps Paraguay's scoring upside via scrappy, low-volume counter attacks.

Even when opponents survive the opening barrage, France sustains attacking waves and forces defensive collapses late.

This is nothing new either. Having reached the final in both 2018 and 2022, France is well conditioned to power into the quarterfinals, especially with Mbappé's scoring form in full flow.

We can boost value on backing the French by pairing another Mbappé goal with over 2.5 on their team total for +238 odds on DraftKings.

POWER BALL

Stewart dominates with 36-point effort to carry Liberty

By MADELINE KENNEY

Nothing regarding Breanna Stewart's excellence surprises any of her teammates anymore.

Stewart is a three-time WNBA champion, two-time league MVP, three-time Olympic gold medalist and soon-to-be eight-time WNBA All-Star, among other things.

LIBERTY	**99**
LYNX	**86**

Summary Page 34

She's the definition of a winner.

She's a big reason why the Liberty won the Commissioner's Cup Tuesday. She earned this year's in-season tournament MVP trophy, which she turned into a chalice and drank champagne from.

Then, Stewart made sure there would be no evidence of a proverbial championship hangover Friday when the Liberty returned to their regularly scheduled programming.

Stewart exploded for a season-high 36 points in the Liberty's 99-86 win against their rival, the Minnesota Lynx.

Stewart was on one out of the gates, scoring 16 points on a perfect 7-for-7 shooting in the first quarter.

She never let up as she continued to run, attack and frustrate the Lynx, the league's top-ranked team. Stewart made it clear she wasn't going to allow the Liberty let this one slip finishing with her highest scoring output since Sept. 15, 2024.

It was Stewart's 33rd career 30-point game, the third-most in WNBA history behind Diana Taurasi (54) and A'ja Wilson (43).

"She had some tough ones today," Leonie Fiebich said. "She was really aggressive, as I said, there's no answer for her, especially not in Minnesota. It's really hard to stop her if she comes with an aggressive mindset and then she hit some 3s so that helps, too, she was just confident and I love it."

All of Stewart's teammates have been asked about the superstar's greatness every which way.

What's left to say about Stewart?

"Nothing," Sabrina Ionescu said. "Everyone knows the elite player she is on both sides of the floor, the engine and motor that she has to play and I kind of applaud our team. I feel like we do a really good job of — we know how great she is and we try and look for her every single time because she can do everything."

When the Liberty need a basket, Stewart delivers. When the offense isn't working, she'll manufacture points by getting to the free-throw line. When the team needs a big stop, Stewart does it.

Rinse and repeat.

Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve had an opportunity to make history Friday after she tied Mike Thibault's WNBA record of 379 career coaching wins earlier this week.

But the Liberty ensured Reeve will have to wait at least one more game before breaking the record.

"We know Minnesota really well, we've gone up against them many times, and it's just personal," said Fiebich, a member of the 2024 Liberty team that beat the Lynx in the Finals that year. "And I think you saw that today."

All five of the Liberty's starters scored at least 13 points.

After a rocky two-week stretch of Ionescu trying to find her footing, she has now strung together two solid performances. She finished with 17 points.

Jonquel Jones notched her sixth double-double of the season with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Pauline Astier had 14 points and six assists, while Fiebich added 13 points, four assists and three rebounds.

While Stewart was the clear catalyst for Friday's win, the game was also an example of how lethal this team can be when everyone's clicking.

"When we're playing the right way, we're a very hard team to stop," Jones said.

Here for your home
30 STEWART
AT&T

PLAYING IN THE LIGHTS: Breanna Stewart skies over a Minnesota defender for two of her game-high 36 points for the Liberty on Friday. Stewart scored 16 in the first quarter alone, hitting her first seven shots.

Michelle Farsi

Lynx rookie scores 14 in first visit 'home'

By MADELINE KENNEY

Friday was a homecoming of sorts for Lynx rookie Olivia Miles.

The Summit, N.J., native had family and friends show up in droves to support her against the Liberty at Barclays Center.

Miles finished with 14 points, five rebounds and five assists in Minnesota's 99-86 loss. But she struggled with her shooting, going 5-of-16 from the field and missing all four of her 3-point tries.

Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve's only consolation for her fellow New Jerseyan is that Miles' return home went better than when Maya Moore went back to Connecticut early in her career.

OLIVIA MILES
Top rookie star

Moore scored just two and three points, respectively, in each of her first games at the Connecticut Sun in 2011 and 2012.

"It wasn't good," Reeve recalled pregame.

But Reeve really doesn't seem to have to worry about her rookie point guard all too much these days.

Miles has drawn comparisons to four-time WNBA champion and Lynx legend Lindsay Whalen.

Miles is doing stuff rookie guards don't typically do. There's usually an adjustment period to the speed and physicality of the WNBA game for newcomers, especially those coming from college.

It's impressive her consistency and ability to read the game as well as she does not even two months into her first season. She thought it would take longer for her to adjust to the speed of the pro game, but if anything, she's the one dictating it when she's on the floor.

Going into Friday's game, she led all rookies in scoring (18.7 points per game), assists (5.7) and efficiency (22.8). This year's No. 2 overall pick is a clear frontrunner for Rookie of the Year. She's picked up two Rookie of the Month awards and was named an All-Star starter this week.

"I didn't really have any expectations," Miles said before the game. "I'm kind of surprising myself a little bit here and there."

Miles has this quiet confidence.

She's soft spoken and reserved. Her responses to reporters' questions are thoughtful and sweet. She carries herself with the poise and calmness of a seasoned veteran.

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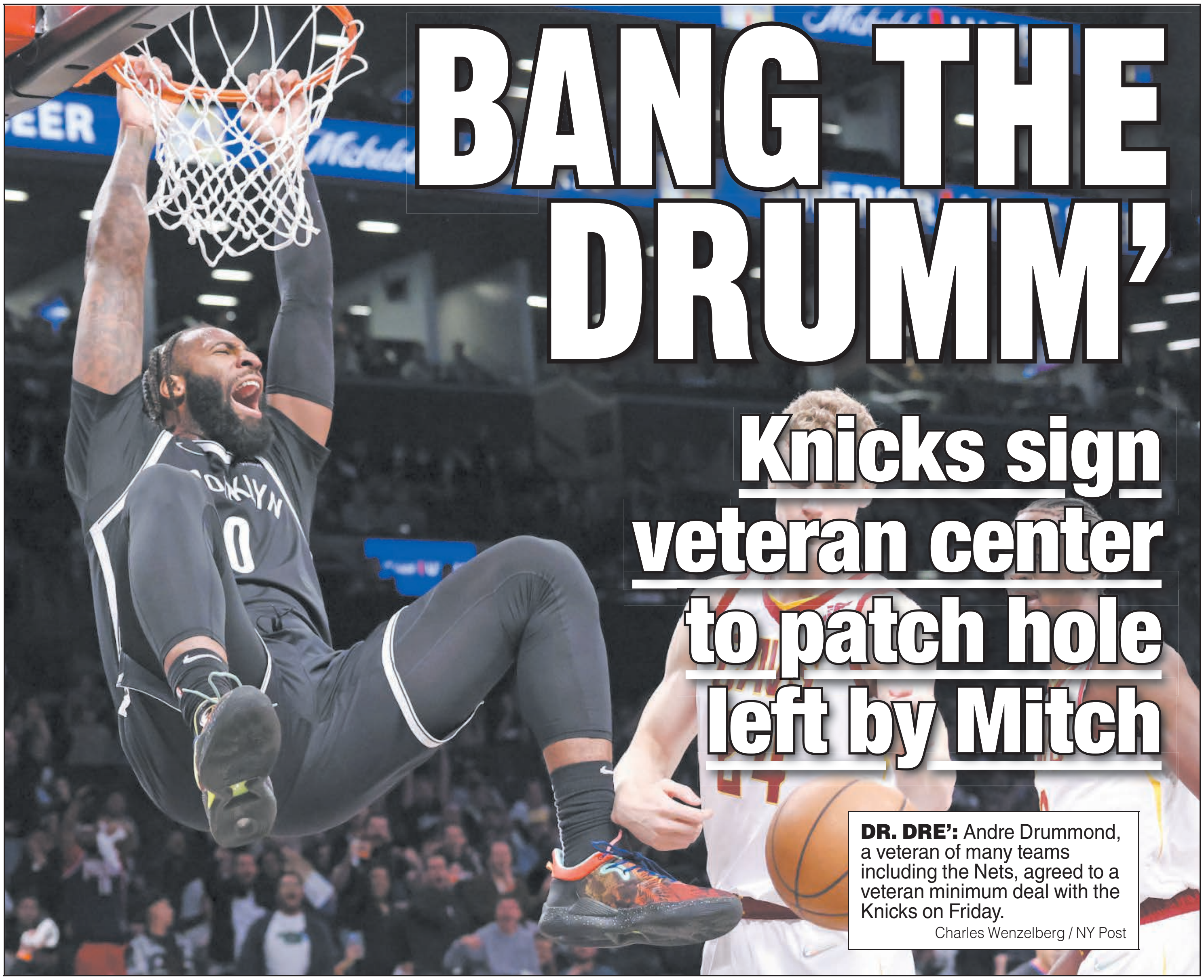
BANG THE DRUMM'

Knicks sign veteran center to patch hole left by Mitch



DR. DRE': Andre Drummond, a veteran of many teams including the Nets, agreed to a veteran minimum deal with the Knicks on Friday.

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

By STEFAN BONDY

The Knicks are signing a local product and familiar name as their backup center veteran.

Andre Drummond, who is from Mount Vernon and had been linked to the Knicks in previous years, agreed to a one-year, veteran minimum ($3.9 million) deal with New York, league sources confirmed.

The 32-year-old offers size, strong rebounding and a glut of experience but is well past his prime, having served as a backup for most of the past four seasons. Drummond's career drop off from his All-Star peak is likely why the Knicks were able to secure the 6-foot-11 piece at such a small salary, a necessity for them to stay under the second apron.

Drummond played the last two years for the rival Sixers as Joel Embiid's backup, averaging 6.3 points and 8.4 rebounds last season in 19.5 minutes. He's a downgrade from Mitchell Robinson — who left in free agency for Boston — but a strong body to eat up minutes for Karl-Anthony Towns.

His greatest asset remains rebounding. Drummond was second to Robinson last season in boards per 36 minutes with 15.6. He led the league in rebounding four times and, unlike Robinson, cured his free-throw shooting problems — Drummond went from 37 percent from the charity stripe as a rookie to a career-best 63 percent last season.

Hack-A-Drummond no longer works. Drummond is also more durable than Robinson and shockingly developed a 3-pointer last season in Philly, knocking down a career-best (by far) 32 treys. Still, his weaknesses are shooting and conditioning. He was again forced to take a minimum deal after expressing a desire to avoid it.

"I'm not willing to play less than my worth," Drummond said about free agency in a since-deleted interview posted on YouTube. "I did that once and then I got labeled as one of those guys, and I think it really killed my value in the NBA because I'm still moving like I'm in my mid-20s. I still have a lot left in the tank. I think by taking that pay cut … I feel like I've been climbing out of a hole for the last 4-5 years. It's been hard."

Drummond's climb continues on an expiring minimum deal but the Knicks can offer a pathway to a bigger payday — a rotation spot and a legitimate chance at a championship.

The Knicks still have two roster spots to fill and roughly $6.5 million remaining under the second apron. Jonas Valanciunas, another veteran center, is a target to further bolster the frontcourt depth, according to The Athletic.

Jordan Clarkson, a guard, is also a candidate to return, sources said.

The biggest free agent remaining — LeBron James — is "very, very unlikely" to sign with the Knicks, even if he were willing to accept a minimum deal, sources said. Among the reasons from both sides, as outlined by LeBron's agent Rich Paul, is the Knicks are coming off a title and, "The last thing you want to do is mess up something like that. The Knicks have a good thing."

The Knicks had previously discussed signing center Marvin Bagley III, but the former second overall pick instead joined the Nuggets.

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LeBron 'very unlikely' to call MSG newest home

By STEFAN BONDY

The Knicks "checked in" on free agent LeBron James, as stated by his power agent Rich Paul, but a signing is "very, very unlikely," multiple sources told The Post.

A source said the discussion between Paul and the Knicks was cursory, with Paul later explaining on his podcast why New York actually lost appeal by winning the title.

Either way, a Knicks-LeBron union — which feels decades in the making — is not in the cards.

"It's difficult," Paul said on his "Game Over" podcast on Netflix. "The last thing you want to do is mess up something like that. The Knicks have a good thing. … If the Knicks hadn't have won [the title], there would be no board [of teams]. He'd be going to the Knicks."

James, who averaged 21 points as an All-Star last season, would obviously be a tremendous fit on the court but adds a different element to the atmosphere.

The defense of the championship would suddenly morph into a different story, replete with distractions — the potential farewell tour of arguably the greatest player of all time.

The Knicks, who are trying to avoid the second apron, also can only offer a veteran minimum contract to James, who is looking for a new team after informing the Lakers he wasn't returning.

With LeBron out of the mix, the Knicks signed backup veteran center Andre Drummond with hopes he can replace Mitchell Robinson, who bolted to the Celtics in free agency.

Regardless, a source said that the "core" of the Knicks will remain in place for the upcoming season.

"The Knicks are very happy with the core of the roster," the source said.

LeBron has been most linked to three potential destinations in free agency — the Cavaliers, Warriors and Sixers.

Each presents a unique opportunity.

With the Warriors, James can earn more money while playing with fellow legend Steph Curry. With the Cavs, he can try to complete a storybook ending with his original franchise. With the Sixers, there'd be three star teammates — Jaylen Brown, Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey — and a chance to break a long title drought.

The Knicks? There used to be a lot of reasons but those don't apply after a championship.

LeBron James

Jason Szenes

Clark unloads after flagrant foul non-call

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

It’s not just the recent jab to her throat by Alyssa Thomas that Caitlin Clark thinks was a flagrant foul.

An admittedly frustrated Clark also thinks the way the media and fans harp on every minuscule thing about her and the Indiana Fever is getting to be too much, even though she tries to avoid reading social media and news headlines.

“I don’t remember who wrote this … and it was like, the headline read like, ‘This season has been everything but fun and just full of frustration for Clark and the Fever,’” Clark told reporters at Friday’s shootaround during a 1,300-word opening statement.

“And I’m like, no one ever asked me that. Like, that’s wrong. Like, discuss my play, discuss if I played bad, discuss if I played good, discuss our play. And at times I understand there’s other things that need to be talked about, great, whatever, but let’s continue to move on.”

First, let’s look back.

Clark was interviewed for the first time since she was hit in the throat by the Mercury’s Thomas as they hit the floor for a loose ball.

A flagrant foul wasn’t called during the game, but Thomas was suspended for one game after replay review.

“I did think it was a flagrant foul and our refereeing just needs to be better,” Clark said. “And, you know, it’s tough. Obviously, the refs are in a really difficult spot. … I think for us, as the league, we’ve just got to do better protecting our players, in that regard. I don’t really think that it was up for debate.

Clark’s suggestion is for the WNBA to invest in better technology and to pay referees “like they’re full-time employees.”

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Title run creates dip in rise of NBA cap

By ERICH RICHTER

Success has a cost — but the Knicks’ extreme success is an expense on everyone else.

With the Knicks winning 13 straight playoff games, sweeping two consecutive opponents and making short work of the Spurs in a five-game series in the NBA Finals, the NBA’s salary cap will be much lower than previously expected, according to ESPN.

When the NBA negotiated a $77 billion media rights deal, tripling the previous deal in total value, it attempted to curb the drastic increase in the salary cap by elevating it by a maximum of 10 percent.

That the Knicks needed just nine games across the conference finals and NBA Finals — four in the conference, five in the Finals — factored into the dip, per ESPN.

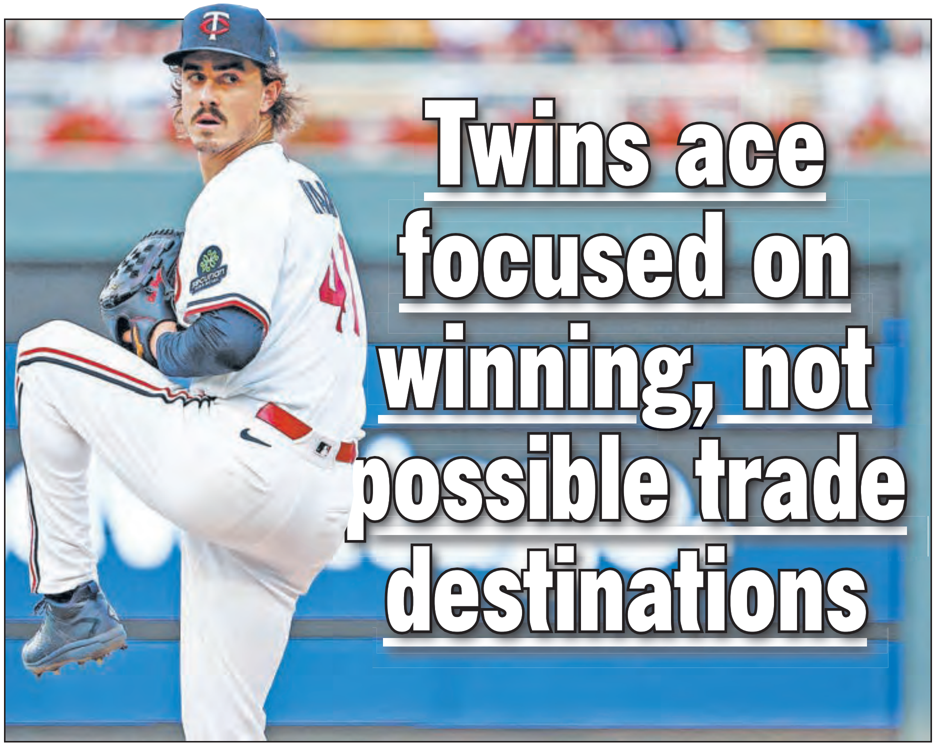
The current salary cap sits at $165 million, so the projected increase of 6.7 percent would land it at $175.73 million.

If it had gone up the full 10 percent, the salary cap would be $181.5 million.

The NBA warned that the salary cap increase might not reach the 10 percent number, but the Knicks’ postseason dominance is having even further resounding impacts than had previously been anticipated.

The Knicks played just 19 postseason games on their dominant run to an NBA championship, outscoring opponents by 14.9 points per game, the best differential in NBA playoff history.

Twins ace focused on winning, not possible trade destinations



JOE & BEHOLD: Joe Ryan is a potential Yankees target at August’s trade deadline, but the Twins ace said he’s “focused on our clubhouse.” Getty Images

By DAN MARTIN

When the Twins come to The Bronx, it’s normally a good time for the Yankees to feast.

Since the new Yankee Stadium opened, the Yankees are 42-14 against Minnesota after Friday’s 5-2 victory.

And as they headed into the series having lost a season-high seven games, the Yankees were in need of a turnaround.

Another benefit to knocking off the AL Central foes is putting the Twins in more of a sell mode, since they have two players who could potentially help the Yankees in catcher Ryan Jeffers and right-hander Joe Ryan.

Ryan, scheduled to start Sunday at the Stadium, acknowledged the possibility of change in Minnesota’s clubhouse — with both Ryan and Jeffers possible trade targets.

“We control what we control every day,” Ryan said Friday. “If you’re getting talked about at the trade deadline, it means you’re playing pretty well. We’re more focused on our clubhouse and what gives the best chance to win here. Teams are always looking to get better, ourselves included. We just want to win and be the last team on the field and be on the team you started spring training with. This year is no different. We have a whole month to put ourselves in position to buy [at the deadline].”

As The Post’s Joel Sherman has noted, the righty-hitting Jeffers, who began a minor league rehab assignment Friday night with Triple-A St. Paul, could be a fit with the Yankees — who have gotten startlingly little production at catcher this season, with Austin Wells unable to get going at the plate.

And now that Carlos Rodón is on the 15-day IL with left elbow inflammation, the Yankees have another question in their suddenly shaky rotation.

Ryan said he “wants to win here [with the Twins]. We have a good group. We’re playing well together and we can improve.”

As for Jeffers, his comeback from hamate bone surgery would be vital to that possible comeback for a team that began Friday three games out of a wild-card spot and four games out in the division.

Jeffers, a free agent after this season, was at DH on Friday for Triple-A St. Paul, but if he recovers well enough from the procedure, he would be an upgrade at the plate for most teams and got an endorsement from Ryan, who doesn’t want him to go anywhere.

“He wants to win, works really hard and is always getting better,” Ryan said of his teammate. “This year, he’s put together the whole package. He’s just gotten another level of confidence and he’s authentic to who he is as hitter and a catcher.”

Ryan praised Jeffers’ work behind the plate.

“He’s great with scouting reports as a catcher and talking to pitchers and coaches,” Ryan said. “He wants to help the staff and asks how he can get better and improve what I’m doing. Any time he has a limitation in his game, he does a good job improving in that area. He’s put himself in a really good spot. Hopefully it’s not at the trade deadline and it’s the offseason that he gets a chance to sign somewhere to be in a position to win a championship. And hopefully we retain him.”

That decision will be made in the next month, with new controlling partner Tom Pohlad saying since he took over the Twins would work to be competitive this year after selling at last year’s deadline.

“You never know what’s going to happen,” Ryan said.

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Lagrange shut down for 6 weeks

By DAN MARTIN

A Yankee team on the hunt for more bullpen help won’t be getting it from one of their top prospects anytime soon.

The team announced Friday night that Carlos Lagrange, who was in the process of being converted to a reliever for the rest of this season, was diagnosed with a capsular strain of his right shoulder.

The 23-year-old won’t throw for approximately six weeks — well after the Aug. 3 trade deadline.

So instead of potentially joining the bullpen in The Bronx in the coming weeks, Lagrange will be shut down indefinitely, knocking the hard-throwing righty off the list of possible upgrades.

Before the game, Aaron Boone said it altered the team’s plans “certainly for the short term.”

Lagrange opened eyes in the spring with his ability to throw 100 mph consistently and the Yankees continue to view him as a starter in the future, but hoped to move him to the pen for the rest of this season as a nasty bullpen arm.

That process began in early June, with a possible second half promotion to the majors.

That’s now on hold, very possibly for the rest of the season.

Lagrange last appeared in a game with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Sunday. He pitched on two days’ rest and had his worst outing as a reliever, allowing five runs on four hits, as well as a pair of walks, in just two-thirds of an inning. Lagrange averaged 98.8 mph with his fastball and hit 100.9.

It was Lagrange’s seventh appearance out of the bullpen and second time pitching on two days’ rest.

Naturally, questions arose about whether the switch led to the shoulder woes.

“It’s impossible to answer that for sure,” Boone said. “We were pretty disciplined and methodical with how we took him into that role. I feel like we were careful with it, but you never know for certain why [it] happens.”

It’s no secret why the Yankees were looking to get some help from Lagrange.

Two of last year’s trade deadline acquisitions who were expected to aid the pen, Camilo Doval and Jake Bird, have been huge disappointments, while David Bednar has mostly been solid as closer.

And if the season had gone according to plan, the Yankees would consider Ryan Weathers as another left-handed option since there would be no room for him in the rotation.

But they’re waiting for Max Fried to get back from a left elbow bone bruise and now have Carlos Rodón on the IL with left elbow inflammation.

There was also belief that Luis Gil might thrive out of the pen, but he last pitched on April 26 with the Yankees and then was shut down with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in early May with a shoulder injury.

IT'S GOOD TO BE

KIDDING ASIDE: After 27 years in control of the Knicks and Rangers, owner Jim Dolan decided to scale back his involvement with the Blueshirts with his son, Quentin (right), assuming the role of president and CEO of the team.

Dolan steps away from Blueshirts, hands control of team to son Quentin

By MOLLIE WALKER

EXCLUSIVE

A new era has arrived for Madison Square Garden Sports Corp. — and it begins with the Rangers.

MSG executive chairman and CEO James Dolan is handing over the day-to-day ownership responsibilities for the Blueshirts to his son Quentin, The Post has learned.

This begins the process of passing the torch to his children, which Dolan has said he's always hoped to execute.

Indeed, for the first time since assuming control of both the Knicks and the Rangers 27 years ago, Jim Dolan is scaling back his involvement with one of his teams.

It begins with the 32-year-old Quentin Dolan assuming the titles of Rangers president, chief operating officer and alternate governor. Rangers president and general manager Chris Drury will now report to him instead of James Dolan.

The hierarchical change does not impact Drury's responsibilities in hockey operations. Drury will continue to lead all decision-making for the Rangers and work collaboratively with the fourth-oldest of the six Dolan sons.

"I think it's something I've been building towards, and I'll be working my hardest and probably proving to myself for a while that I'm ready," Quentin Dolan told The Post from inside his office at 2 Penn Plaza in his first-ever interview. "For me, the ultimate goal is winning a championship. It's been a goal of mine to really continue my father's and grandfather's legacy, and that's something that I understood about myself and wanted early on. This is a continuation of that and it feels right."

A source said Quentin Dolan's promotion with the Rangers does not change anything for the Knicks. All is status quo for MSG's NBA championship team, with Jim Dolan remaining in his executive chairman role.

Quentin Dolan's most notable position was SVP of player performance and science for both the Rangers and Knicks, following various roles at MSG Sports and service on the MSG Sports board of directors since 2021. His background as an adviser on several sports performance and biotech research and product development projects helped him build the infrastructure and lead the organization's performance science and player development.

Part of his responsibilities included overseeing medical, strength and conditioning, nutrition, mental performance and performance data operations for both teams.

Before becoming SVP, Dolan also served as vice president, strategic adviser to the executive chairman and as investment director. He has worked progressively closer with his dad over the years.

The elder Dolan's passion for the job and insatiable work ethic are traits his son says he plans to carry with him into this new opportunity.

"There's a quote that I'm not sure if he knows that I even know, that the art of management is being able to control an outcome without being present," Quentin said. "Of course, I will be far more present and operationally involved, but this role is much broader. I continue to work on my management skills and keep that in mind, that ultimately that's the standard I have to strive for."

The younger Dolan was heavily involved in the Knicks recently ending their 53-year NBA title drought.

Knicks head coach Mike Brown even gave him a shoutout during a press conference in March for his efforts in piecing together the plan that kept the oft-injured Mitchell Robinson healthy.

And less than 12 hours after landing from a memorable night inside Frost Bank Center in San Antonio, where he was drenched in champagne while holding the Larry O'Brien Trophy, Dolan was already in a meeting to discuss Rangers strategy.

Three biggest issues new Rangers boss,

FROM TOP to bottom, the Rangers organization has experienced considerable movement since management formally announced a retooling plan to the fans just under six months ago.

It started with showing perennial leading scorer Artemi Panarin the door. Then personnel changes were made to both the player development department and the coaching staff for the team's AHL affiliate in Hartford.

The defense corps has been improved. So has the prospect pool. A younger Russian sharpshooter is signed through 2032-33.

And on Friday, The Post exclusively reported the Blueshirts are now in the hands of James Dolan's 32-year-old son, Quentin, who is taking over the day-to-day ownership responsibilities of his father's NHL team.

The organization is shaking things up to try and salvage the window that still has cornerstone pieces such as Igor Shesterkin, Adam Fox, Mika Zibanejad and J.T. Miller in place.

NEW YORK RANGERS

Mollie Walker

That much is apparent by the way Chris Drury has navigated this offseason, in which the Rangers president and general manager has acquired several young assets who are either NHL regulars or nearing NHL ready.

Aggressive moves have had to be made to correct the short term, but the future has only been sacrificed for additions deemed worthy of the cost.

With Quentin Dolan becoming more ingrained in the hockey operation, the Rangers are giving a familiar face a more prominent voice. That can bring a fresh approach, new ideas and a different feel to a franchise that has had the same guidance for 27 years.

The partnership between Dolan and Drury will be crucial going forward as they work to end a 32-year Stanley Cup drought.

CULTURE

The Madison Square Garden way has always stemmed from the top down. While the elder Dolan has long faced criticism for fostering a tense environment of paranoia on the inside, the Rangers and Knicks have both been regarded as first-rate organizations by players who have come through New York.

Players are always going to want to come to New York and play inside MSG.

For the Rangers, however, narratives of unhappy players on their way out of town have run rampant over the last few years. Prospects who once had promise have fizzled out earlier than expected, some due to a poor evaluation to begin with and others after losing confidence and sputtering while in the system.

After alternate captain Barclay Goodrow and former captain Jacob Trouba took issue with how their respective situations were handled in the 2024 offseason, players who have followed them out the door have reported stronger communication from Drury throughout their own process. With a new voice from ownership, perhaps there will be a redefined approach to player handling.

Plus, instilling a winning attitude that blankets an entire organization is key.

In an exclusive interview with The Post, Dolan credited talent, hard work, mutual respect and collaboration for why the Knicks were a championship-caliber organization this past season. He said there was a feeling inside the locker room from Day 1 of training camp.

Dolan will look to help replicate that inside the Rangers locker room.

TALENT EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Dolan has a unique background

THE KIN

"That was the thought, you know, how do we get here with this franchise?" he said.

Dolan was at MSG Training Center in Tarrytown with Drury and the rest of the front office for what was a busy first day of free agency for the Rangers on Wednesday. Also peeking in at development camp, Dolan said he enjoyed being around while everything unfolded.

An NYU alum — who got his bachelor's degree in sports and events management — Dolan already has a working relationship with Drury and Rangers head coach Mike Sullivan, which should help ease him into his new responsibilities.

Building relationships has been a priority for Dolan, who recognizes the importance of collaboration while instilling a winning culture. Asked what he thinks will make him successful in this job, Dolan pointed to how much he cares.

"And I hope that comes through in time," he said.

Coming off two down seasons with no playoffs, the Rangers are at a pivotal point in team history as their Stanley Cup drought has reached 32 years. Drury has operated under his retooling proclamation, making considerable changes and additions to the team since sending out a formal letter to fans Jan. 16.

Dolan recognizes his increase in authority and reach over the franchise, but he knows exactly how he will approach the position.

"Same way I've been approaching it from the moment I got in the company, which is honestly keeping my head down, working the hardest, and for me, I have an extremely high bar for when I am working the hardest, and I'm tough on myself," he said.

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Dorofeyev ready for Broadway spotlight

By MOLLIE WALKER

Pavel Dorofeyev had spent plenty of time in the Tri-State Area before he put pen to paper on a seven-year, $77 million deal with the Rangers last month.

Since beginning his transition into a full-time NHL role in 2022, the Russian wing has trained with Ben Prentiss in Stamford, Conn., alongside many other NHLers and a multitude of Rangers. The familiarity he already has not only with Manhattan, but also with some of his new Blueshirts teammates, should help Dorofeyev settle into his new team after experiencing his first ever trade from Vegas.

To also have his lucrative contract signed and sealed, Dorofeyev is free to focus entirely on hockey as he begins this new chapter of his young career.

"Yeah, I mean, it's a great thing," he said about his new deal in his first interview as a Ranger on a Zoom call from Russia Friday morning. "But I've been around the area for the past year. It's great to be a Ranger. I'm thankful for the whole organization that they believed in me and they traded for me."

Crediting his agent, Rick Komarow, for setting him with Prentiss, Dorofeyev reveled in the fact that he ended up signing a long-term contract around the same area he was spending his offseasons training in.

For some 25-year-old's in the league, the jump to a new team, a new state and a new market can be overwhelming. But Dorofeyev seemed unfazed by the acclimation process he is sure to go through as training camp inches closer.

Coming off a career season (37 goals, 27 assists in 82 games) and a strong playoff showing (12 goals, 16 points in 22 games), Dorofeyev will be at least partially charged with replacing the lost production of perennial leading scorer Artemi Panarin.

PAVEL DOROFEYEV

"Obviously, it feels great, but I don't plan to stop," Dorofeyev said of where his game is at. "I still have time to get better at certain points of my game, and usually I'm just focused on the game, not trying to beat myself."

The expectation is that Dorofeyev will slot into the top six and onto one of the two power-play units. Setting career highs with 20 power-play goals and 30 power-play points, Dorofeyev can certainly bolster what was already a top-five power play in the NHL last season.

Asked if he felt any pressure to help lead the Rangers through this retool, Dorofeyev reveled in that, too.

"I think pressure is kind of a privilege," he said. "I've been dealing with pressure all my life."

Post photo composite; Zumapress; Getty Images

Drury must address in this partnership

as a former advisor to several research and product development projects in the areas of sports performance and biotech. Describing his leadership style as collaborative, the 32-year-old Dolan said he believes it's "really important to get the most out of the experts that work for you, and build out that team of experts and understand that you have those folks for a reason and to utilize those resources to the fullest."

The Rangers already have made some changes to the front office recently, most notably bringing back Kevin Maxwell as director of player personnel and director of pro scouting and promoting Tanner Glass to director of player development in the wake of Jed Ortmeyer's departure from the organization.

And after a disastrous 2025-26 season, the head coach and assistants of the Wolf Pack were let go. Drury then put ex-Kraken and Bruins assistant Jay Leach at the helm in Hartford.

It wouldn't be surprising to see Dolan eventually bring in new hires to bolster these specific departments.

The days of the Rangers' colossally whiffing on draft picks need to stay in the past. Other than Vincent Trocheck (just traded to Utah) and Vladislav Gavrikov, identifying talent that fits the lineup hasn't been the team's strongest trait in recent years either.

Now that the team is beginning to embrace youth, prospects' paths to the Rangers lineup have never been more crucial. Players who have been repeatedly yanked between the AHL and NHL have lost their footing more often than not.

The Blueshirts need to better their evaluation process of a prospect's readiness as they load up on players who are nearing their NHL debuts.

COMPETE

Everything about what the Rangers have done since the Letter 2.0 signals a push to return to a contending status as soon as possible. It is yet to be seen if the changes Drury has made will thread the needle on the Blueshirts' aspirations, but he sure intends for them to after parting with three first-rounders in one week to help make it happen.

Chris Drury

The Rangers have missed the playoffs in each of the last two seasons for the first time since 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Though the team had some serious issues on both sides of the puck over the last couple years, having a No. 1 goalie like Shesterkin allows the Rangers to feel competitive at the start of every season.

There is still much work to be done in front of the star Russian netminder. Another consistent scoring presence in the top six would be beneficial, as would a player or two who can help bolster the team's poor five-on-five metrics.

In this age of no-move clauses and star NHL players hand-choosing their next destination, the Rangers must be a competitive team. If not for nothing else than to attract premium talent who can drastically change the trajectory of the franchise and deliver a Stanley Cup.

Connor McDavid would need to firmly believe he can win in New York if he were to come here.

New York City may do half the legwork of attracting players, but it pales in comparison to what offering a chance to win can do.

MIGHTY CLOSE

Messi, Argentina survive Cape Verde in extra time thriller between David & Goliath

1893
MESSI
10
LOPES CABRAL

AGONY & ECSTACY: Lionel Messi raises his arms in victory after defending champion Argentina fended off Sidny Lopes Cabral and Cape Verde — a nation of just 525,000 people — during a riveting Round of 32 match that needed extra time to decide a winner Friday in South Florida. AP

By ALANIS THAMES

Lionel Messi wiped the sweat from his forehead and breathed a sigh of relief. His Argentina teammates did the same.

A thrilling, unforgettable World Cup match with underdog Cape Verde was over — and the defending champions survived after being pushed to the brink.

Cape Verde equalized in regulation and again in extra time, but the Blue Sharks could not respond to Argentina's third goal, and La Albiceleste advanced to the Round of 16 with a 3-2 victory on Friday in Miami Gardens, Fla.

ARGENTINA	**3**	**Extra time**
CAPE VERDE	**2**	

Even in defeat, the performance by Cape Verde — a tiny island nation off the western coast of Africa — will stand as one of the most remarkable stories of this, or any, World Cup.

The go-ahead score for Argentina was credited as an own-goal after Cristian Romero's header deflected off Cape Verde's Diney Borges in the 111th minute. Messi scored early in regulation, his record-extending 20th career World Cup goal. Lisandro Martinez scored in the 92nd to put Argentina ahead 2-1.

Sidny Lopes Cabral and Deroy Duarte scored for Cape Verde — both equalizers that stunned the pro-Argentina crowd in South Florida. Cabral's goal — a curling, right-footed strike past goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez in the 103rd minute — made an already wild game even more incredible, tying it at 2-all and raising the possibility of Messi facing standout Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha in a penalty shootout.

Argentina pushed back in front eight minutes later, held on from there and advanced to face Egypt — which beat Australia in a shootout earlier Friday — in Atlanta on Tuesday.

"As this team has demonstrated many times, and as I've said many times, it competes," Messi said in Spanish. "And we competed to the end."

Cape Verde's memorable World Cup debut had been a stunning run that few outside the country of 525,000 could have predicted. Behind the stellar play of the 40-year-old Vozinha, Cape Verde became the smallest country to reach the knockout round, securing surprising draws against Spain and Uruguay and another against Saudi Arabia.

Vozinha had 10 saves against Argentina, including five against Messi.

"We dignify what our country is. We drew twice against the world champions, we took it to extra time," Cape Verde coach Bubista said. "More than anything, it's being proud of our players who were dignified in the World Cup. We showed our identity."

Bubista and players remained on the pitch well after the final whistle. Some sat with their heads nestled in their chests. Other shared tearful embraces before waving to their small crowd of supporters, reality sinking in at the end of a ride that almost no one outside of their fearless island could have predicted.

"I have to give credit to our opponents," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "The truth is, when people say there's no such thing as an easy opponent, today [Cape Verde] proved they're a great team." — *AP*

Egypt notches 1st KO round win on penalties

Associated Press

ROUNDUP

Hossam Abdelmaguid scored the deciding goal in a shootout, and Egypt won its debut in the World Cup knockout round by beating Australia 4-2 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw Friday in Arlington, Texas.

Australia goalkeeper Mathew Ryan didn't stop any of Egypt's four shots after replacing starter Patrick Beach late in extra time.

The victory comes in Egypt's fourth World Cup. Australia is now 0-3 in the knockout round.

Egypt will next face defending champion Argentina in the Round of 16 on Tuesday in Atlanta.

Harry Souttar opened the shootout by missing high for Australia, and 18-year-old Lucas Herrington hit the crossbar with the fourth attempt to set up Abdelmaguid's clincher.

Egypt's other penalty shootout scorers were Mahmoud Saber, Ramy Rabia and Mohamed Salah, the former Liverpool star who started despite a hamstring injury sustained in the team's group finale.

Jackson Irvine and Awer Mabil scored in the shootout for Australia.

Emam Ashour gave Egypt the lead in regulation by scoring in the 13th minute with a header that beat Beach just inside the near post. Australia evened the match in the 55th when Egypt defender Mohamed Hany became the first player to score two own-goals in the same World Cup.

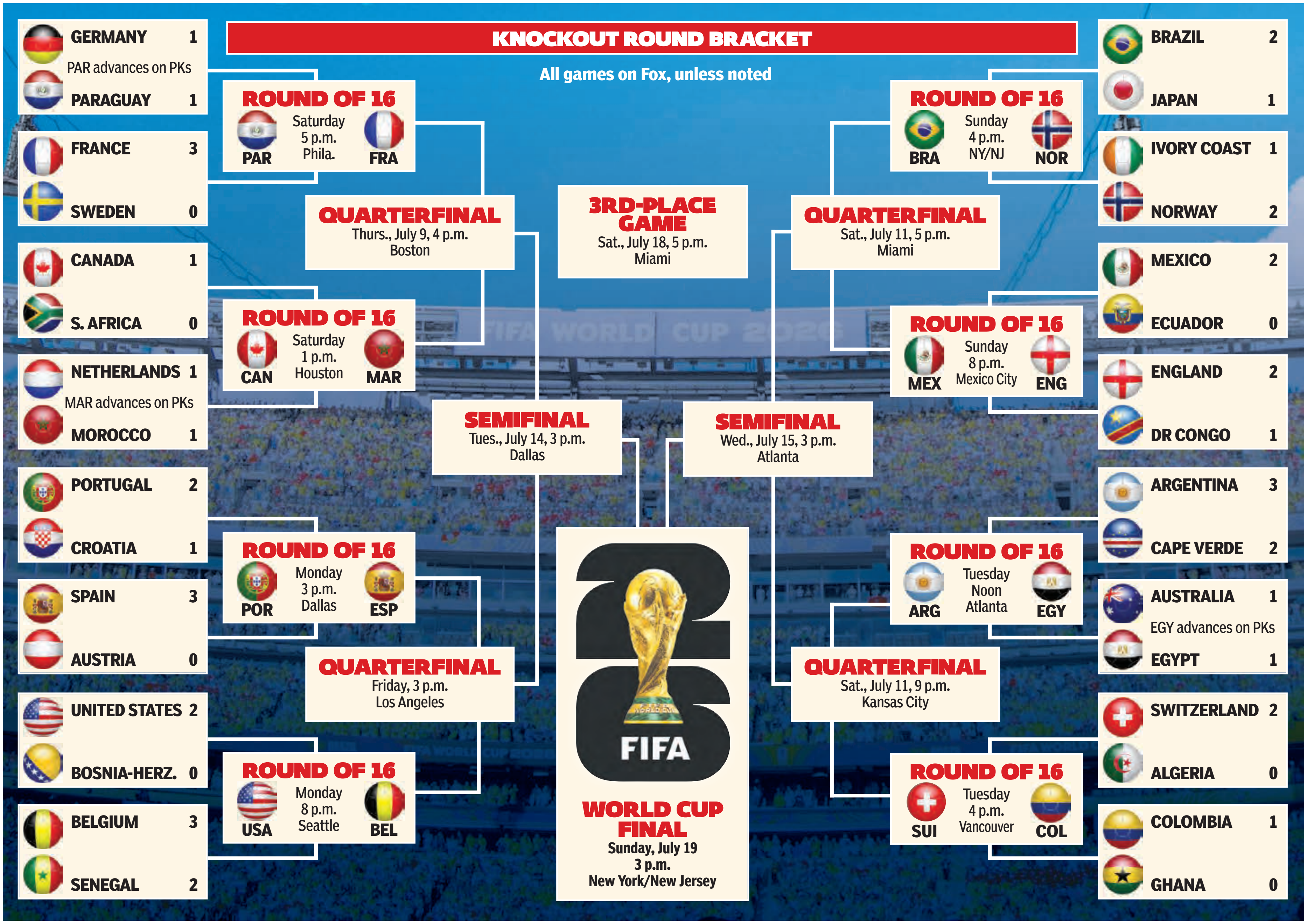
Colombia 1, Ghana 0

Jhon Arias scored off a sharp cross from Luis Suárez in the opening minutes on a sweltering night in Kansas City, Mo., allowing Los Cafeteros to advance.

Colombia will play Switzerland on Tuesday in Vancouver, B.C., for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Los Cafeteros thought they had doubled their lead in the 56th minute, when Luis Díaz found the back of the net only to see the offside flag raised, and the fleet-footed Colombia forward had a point-blank shot saved by Zigi a few minutes later.

Zigi wound up making seven saves to keep Ghana in the game.



KNOCKOUT ROUND BRACKET

All games on Fox, unless noted

GERMANY 1
PAR advances on PKs
PARAGUAY 1

FRANCE 3
SWEDEN 0

CANADA 1
S. AFRICA 0

NETHERLANDS 1
MAR advances on PKs
MOROCCO 1

PORTUGAL 2
CROATIA 1

SPAIN 3
AUSTRIA 0

UNITED STATES 2
BOSNIA-HERZ. 0

BELGIUM 3
SENEGAL 2

ROUND OF 16
PAR Saturday 5 p.m. Phila. FRA

ROUND OF 16
CAN Saturday 1 p.m. Houston MAR

ROUND OF 16
POR Monday 3 p.m. Dallas ESP

ROUND OF 16
USA Monday 8 p.m. Seattle BEL

QUARTERFINAL
Thurs., July 9, 4 p.m.
Boston

QUARTERFINAL
Friday, 3 p.m.
Los Angeles

SEMIFINAL
Tues., July 14, 3 p.m.
Dallas

3RD-PLACE GAME
Sat., July 18, 5 p.m.
Miami

WORLD CUP FINAL
Sunday, July 19
3 p.m.
New York/New Jersey

SEMIFINAL
Wed., July 15, 3 p.m.
Atlanta

QUARTERFINAL
Sat., July 11, 5 p.m.
Miami

QUARTERFINAL
Sat., July 11, 9 p.m.
Kansas City

ROUND OF 16
BRA Sunday 4 p.m. NY/NJ NOR

ROUND OF 16
MEX Sunday 8 p.m. Mexico City ENG

ROUND OF 16
ARG Tuesday Noon Atlanta EGY

ROUND OF 16
SUI Tuesday 4 p.m. Vancouver COL

BRAZIL 2
JAPAN 1

IVORY COAST 1
NORWAY 2

MEXICO 2
ECUADOR 0

ENGLAND 2
DR CONGO 1

ARGENTINA 3
CAPE VERDE 2

AUSTRALIA 1
EGY advances on PKs
EGYPT 1

SWITZERLAND 2
ALGERIA 0

COLOMBIA 1
GHANA 0

Poch' has no easy choice in replacing Balogun

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — Mauricio Pochettino's calculus on how to deal with the loss of Folarin Balogun, handed a one-game red card suspension ahead of the USMNT's Round of 16 match against Belgium, comes down in large part to how much the manager is willing to change about his lineup as a whole.

Pochettino's system and first-choice starting XI have been hugely effective so far in the World Cup, including against Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32, and he does have plug-and-play options. Those would be Ricardo Pepi and Haji Wright, with Pepi presumed to be higher up on the depth chart.

The PSV striker has a World Cup start under his belt, having started in a front two with Balogun against Australia, and has seen action in every other game since the USMNT arrived for camp in late May. He also played as a lone striker in the May 31 friendly win over Senegal, showing good chemistry with Christian Pulisic.

That would be the obvious move, given that Pepi's performances have been largely unobjectionable and it would allow everything else to stay the same.

"His tenacity and energy has been unreal, to be honest," Tyler Adams said. "I think he's put some unbelievable performances against the ball. I've played with Pepi quite a bit but what he's shown against the ball has been huge for us, I think, and also for our wingers. They don't necessarily have to do as much work."

If Pochettino isn't fully comfortable with Pepi or Wright, though, things will get more complicated.

The U.S. could deploy Pulisic centrally as a striker, something they tried without success in a March friendly against Portugal, or as part of a front two, or in a false nine role. Weston McKennie also played as a striker at times for Juventus this season, and could reprise the role for the U.S., though it would take him out of an attacking midfield spot in which he's thrived throughout the World Cup.

Either of those ideas would require rejiggering at least some of the lineup puzzle. Players such as Gio Reyna, Alex Zendejas or even Tim Weah, who haven't seen much action in the World Cup, aren't natural strikers, but could perhaps do the job under the circumstances as well.

USMNT NOTES

➤ The team was feted with an honor guard before Pochettino fired a strike for the ceremonial pitch at Friday's Mariners-Blue Jays game.

Nearly the entire roster was introduced and honored on the field before Pochettino, donning a No. 5 Mariners jersey, threw out the first pitch. The team was then joined by the Mariners' roster, American flags in tow, for a photo opportunity.

"Guys thank you so much. It's amazing to be at the game here," Pochettino said, addressing the crowd. "I think your support is amazing. It's an amazing city. It's a soccer city. Thank you."

➤ **Mark McKenzie** returned to full training after dealing with an irritated foot in the run-up to the Bosnia game. **Cristian Roldan** remained in modified training with a quad strain. Adams did extra regeneration work instead of full training, something he's done before during this camp.

UNITED STATES THEIR CASE

USMNT believing in its World Cup chances and asking, 'Why not us?'

Mark Cannizzaro

SEATTLE — *Why not us?*

"We all believe in it," Tim Ream said. "We've all talked about it. We all say it: 'Why not us?' "

Thanks to 54-year-old Argentine manager Mauricio Pochettino — who becomes more American with every verse of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" he sings after his U.S. men's national team wins a World Cup match — this has become the mantra for the team and for the nation.

"It's taken hold," Ream, the 38-year-old U.S. defender and team captain, said. "It's all over our hotels, it's all over our meeting rooms and our spaces. It's a reminder to continue to believe, and we are fully ingrained in that and continuing to believe that."

The U.S. took one giant step toward cementing that belief with its 2-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina in its Round of 32 match Wednesday night at Levi's Stadium to advance into a Round of 16 showdown with Belgium on Monday night at Seattle Stadium.

Now comes Belgium, a European power that has had the better of the U.S. — including a lopsided 5-2 result in a World Cup lead-up friendly in March at Atlanta.

Still, this is an older, possibly more vulnerable Belgium side that barely survived its Round of 32 match against Senegal, 3-2, in extra time after it was trailing 2-0. So hardly, unbeatable.

Since the U.S. defeated Australia in its second Group D match in the Pacific Northwest, the Americans have pined to get back to the electric atmosphere in Seattle — arguably the most rabid soccer city in America.

The players and Pochettino got a taste of the euphoria they've generated in America as guests of the Seattle Mariners before Friday night's game against the Blue Jays, with Pochettino throwing out the first pitch.

It was quite the amusing scene Friday morning at the University of Washington's soccer pitch before the team's training session watching Pochettino, who had never thrown a baseball, having a long toss with a ball and glove with USMNT staffers practicing his throwing motion.

"I love seeing how engaged the country is in our journey and what we're doing," U.S. striker Folarin Balogun said Friday. "That sort of stuff [the Mariners pre-game ceremony] can only happen in America. I'm very, very proud."

With each step the USMNT takes on this World Cup journey, the nation becomes even more captivated with more belief, and that cannot help but further the growth of the game in our country.

"We want to leave our mark on the game and a legacy behind," midfielder Tyler Adams said before the team's training session Friday. "I want it to be more than just what this moment has created and the hype around it. If we're talking about the team and the success they've had two years from now, then we've done something right."

It isn't just that the USMNT is in this position, with a real chance to win two knockout games for the first time ever in a World Cup.

It's the way the team got here, overcoming not only a tricky Bosnia-Herzegovina side, but the inept misuse of the VAR system that inexplicably called for a red card on Balogun, leaving him suspended for the Belgium match.

America falls for grit and determination like the way high school boys fall for their prom dates.

America, too, is forever drawn to the underdog, which the U.S. will be if it makes a long run to the semifinals and finals.

"For us, it is about keep dreaming ... and all is possible," Pochettino said after the win over Bosnia. "In football, all is possible if you believe."

Though the players have been in a bubble at these World Cup camps, locked into training, re-generation and hanging out with each other and their families, they're not oblivious to what's going on in the outside world as a result of their results.

With each step the USMNT takes in this international mega-tournament, the belief on the outside grows just as it's grown on the inside.

There's good reason for the entire country to believe in this team. It's pretty damned good. The best to represent the U.S. in a World Cup.

"My friends at home are going crazy right now," Adams, a native of Wappinger Falls and a product of the Red Bulls Academy youth system, said. "They're enjoying the moment. They're locked in. Whenever you have an opportunity to represent your country, everyone's locked in. I know New York is probably going crazy right now."

It is.

"We went into this tournament feeling confident that we can make something happen and beat anybody," star striker Christian Pulisic said, capturing the mood and mindset of the team perfectly. "This is exciting ... but there's still more that we want to accomplish."

Why not the *U.S.*?

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SHOUT IT OUT LOUD: Malik Tillman celebrates his free kick that gave the USMNT a 2-0 lead in its Round of 32 game against Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday. AP

MEET THE PRESS: Folarin Balogun speaks with the media on Friday, giving his first comments since receiving a red card on Wednesday night. Getty Images

Balogun: 'Yellow card would have been fair'

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — Two days after his controversial sending off against Bosnia-Herzegovina, Folarin Balogun said he thought "a yellow card would have been fair" for his tackle on Tarik Muharemovic, but he's ready to support his teammates against Belgium in the Round of 16.

"There's been lots of different emotions. I've been upset, I've been happy, it's been surreal to be honest," Balogun said in his first comments since the red card. "But for me it was just important to stay calm. I never want to react out of anger and emotion.

"There's still lots of people we're inspiring. Little kids, boys and girls are watching. We have to show them the correct way to handle things even when you think it's unjust, so I felt I did that. I'm happy with the support, not just I'm receiving but the team. I think we're all looking forward to seeing what we can do against Belgium."

A U.S. Soccer spokesman said a one-game suspension for Balogun has been confirmed by FIFA. Though Balogun couldn't appeal the suspension down, it was possible for it to be lengthened.

The red-card decision has become a flashpoint in the World Cup. Balogun and Muhamerovic were battling for the ball when Balogun caught the back of the defender's leg, scraping his boot across his calf and ankle.

Though it was no doubt a dangerous play, the use of slow motion replay makes the challenge look far worse than it did in real time, and Balogun clearly had no ill intent. The similarity to a challenge earlier in the tournament from Argentina's Lionel Messi, which did not receive any discipline, has been widely noted as well.

"If you played the game, you would understand there's scenarios that you simply can't avoid and it has to be taken into context when it's reviewed," Balogun said. "I felt it wasn't on this occasion. I think you all saw, there's nowhere else to put your leg. It's going to be unavoidable. I've seen many different opinions and takes. For me personally, I think a yellow card would have been fair. It's something that's happened, so we have to move forward and I have to accept it."

Balogun had scored a goal in the first half against Bosnia, adding to a breakout tournament. His off-ball movement and finishing ability has proven massive for the USMNT, which will now be without him in the Round of 16.

Ricardo Pepi or Haji Wright, the two other strikers on the roster, are the obvious players to come into the lineup. Moving Christian Pulisic or Weston McKennie into a striker role is another potential option for manager Mauricio Pochettino, as is starting someone like Gio Reyna.

Balogun said he hasn't given Pepi or Wright any advice, but he's more than happy to do so.

"Whatever he needs," Balogun said of Pepi. "Not just him, anyone in the team, if they need advice or anything, I'm more than happy to do that."

After the match, Balogun — who had watched the end from the dressing room — came out to the field to sing John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" and celebrate with the crowd. During the celebration, he found referee Raphael Claus and shook his hand.

"I think even though you can feel like some injustice happened to you, it's not an excuse to be disrespectful or not do the right thing," Balogun said. "After every game, I try to shake the referee's hand. This game is no different. As I said, the most important thing for me is to give the correct example to people watching.

"This is something, I'm aware that the World Cup might be the first time a lot of American viewers are tuning in. It's important to show people that whether things happen to you, good or bad, just continue to be yourself."

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SHUFFLING & SCUFFLING

Changes to lineup do little as Mets fall to Braves, drop to 16 games under .500

EYE CARAMBA! Juan Soto pleads his case after being called for a strike on a pitch clock violation on Friday night against the Braves. The Mets slugger seemingly got something in his eye, and was not ready for the next pitch. Soto ended up striking out swinging two pitches later. Imagn Images

By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — A.J. Ewing took over the leadoff spot Friday night, but reshuffling the cards didn't get the Mets far.

A disappointing lineup remained on brand, and aside from an early Juan Soto homer and ninth inning rally was largely silent in a 5-3 loss to the Braves at Truist Park.

BRAVES	**5**
METS	**3**

Boxscore Page 36

Ewing went 0-for-3 in his debut atop the order on a night the Mets dropped a season-worst 16 games below .500. The Braves had just five hits, but four were homers.

Interim manager Andy Green indicated his plan is to keep Ewing at leadoff against right-handed pitching. Carson Benge, who was hitting in that spot, moved to fifth in the order.

"What [Ewing] has done in his short stint in the big leagues, he's putting up a [.375] on-base percentage against right-handed pitching, that is incredibly rare for a rookie," Green said before the game. "It fits his long-term skill set: speed, grinds at-bats, shoots the ball around the yard and it also fits Carson to be a middle-of-the-order type guy.

"Carson filled into that spot ably, he slid into that spot before A.J. was called up to the big leagues and did a really nice job on that spot. It doesn't mean he won't ever go back to that spot."

Christian Scott lasted just four innings, allowing three earned runs on two hits and four walks with seven strikeouts. Scott's start was his shortest since May 18 at Washington (also four innings). He departed after 82 pitches on this night.

Michael Harris II blasted a two-run homer in the second to put the Mets in a 2-0 hole. Scott walked Mauricio Dubón leading off the inning before throwing a first-pitch fastball that Harris launched over the center-field fence.

Soto tied it with a two-run homer in the third. After Ewing reached on Matt Olson's fielding error, Soto hit a shot just inside the left-field foul pole near the visitor's bullpen. Adding to the moment, reliever Cionel Pérez caught the ball in his cap. Soto's homer was his team-leading 18th.

Scott surrendered a homer to Ozzie Albies in the third that put the Mets in a 3-2 hole. Albies crushed a 2-1 fastball into the right-field seats.

"Those two innings [the second and third] got my pitch count up and I just wasn't good enough," Scott said. "I have just got to do a better job attacking the zone early. I thought they put me in some long at-bats there in those innings and they were well-executed by them."

Scott concluded his outing by striking out the side in the fourth.

"He's at his best when he's attacking and he's certainly trying to do that," Green said. "Innings two and three, he got behind Dubón and that started that inning and then Harris jumped him. It was just scattered command for a couple of innings. It was good to see him battle back in the fourth."

Olson's homer against A.J. Minter in the fifth extended the Braves' lead to 4-2. It was the first earned run allowed by Minter in 15 appearances this season.

Olson's second homer of the night, an eighth-inning blast against Kodai Senga, widened the Mets' deficit to 5-2.

Bo Bichette's RBI single in the ninth sliced the Braves' lead to 5-3, but Francisco Lindor was retired for the final out with the tying runs on base.

"We weren't able to string anything together," Green said. "In isolation there was a good at-bat here and there ... the Soto home run the other way was ridiculously good. His at-bats continue to be ridiculously good. And the rest of the lineup scattered decent at-bats."

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ON DECK: at Braves

Saturday, 8:08 p.m., Fox, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Sean Manaea

2026 stats:
1-3, 4.71 ERA

Career vs. ATL:
0-2, 3.38 ERA

Last start:
Mon., at TOR;
5.2 IP, 3 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Sweeper	Sinker
36%	32%	20%

LHP Chris Sale

2026 stats:
8-6, 2.10 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
2-0, 1.97 ERA

Last start:
Sun., at SGF;
6.0 IP, 8 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup
40%	40%	12%

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Braves, 12:30 p.m., NBC, WHSQ
RHP Nolan McLean vs. LHP Martín Pérez

MONDAY: at Braves, 7:15 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. RHP Reynaldo López

INJURY REPORT

■ **Clay Holmes** is with the team in Atlanta as he continues his rehab from a right fibula fracture. The veteran right-hander is still several weeks away from returning from the injured list.

Soto, Lindor insist their relationship is getting better

By ANDREW BATTIFARANO

While there have been many questions about the relationship between the Mets' two biggest stars, they both insist they're in a good place.

After last year's months-long collapse, The Post's Mike Puma reported that Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor had a chilly relationship. And earlier this week on "The Show" podcast with Jon Heyman and Joel Sherman, Mets owner Steve Cohen confirmed the reporting but said that was in the rearview.

Soto and Lindor, both speaking to The Athletic on Friday, said their relationship is getting better.

"There were no issues last year — at all," Soto told The Athletic. "We didn't have any beef or anything. Definitely, our relationship is getting better because it takes time.

"When you meet a girl, you don't start kissing her right away."

Lindor added that the relationship between the two will "continue to grow."

"I have nothing but respect for him. He's my brother," Lindor said. "He's somebody I respected from a distance and respect here, inside."

The Athletic reported Carlos Mendoza worked to get the two under better terms before his firing, and Lindor and Soto recently had "hard conversations," though the two players said they did not agree with calling the discussions "hard."

Soto joined the Mets before last season with plenty of fanfare — and money — on a 15-year, $765 million contract. Fighting through a slower start by his standards, Soto finished 2025 with 43 homers, an MLB-leading 127 walks and a .921 OPS as he finished third in the National League MVP race. But even with that and Lindor's third 30-homer, 30-stolen base season, the Mets, who had an MLB-best 45-24 record in mid-June, crumbled the rest of the way and missed the playoffs by virtue of a tie-breaker with the Reds.

The Mets have not fared better this year with a 36-52 record after Friday's 5-3 loss to the Braves. Since taking over as interim skipper on June 26, Andy Green now has a 2-6 record.

Cohen, in his candid conversation with The Post earlier this week, believed any frostiness between Soto and Lindor is a thing of the past.

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Ex-DH not interested in becoming next skipper

By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — J.D. Martinez is receiving his baseball fix as a Mets special assistant and isn't in a hurry to increase that workload.

METS NOTES

The former Mets DH told The Post on Friday that he's not interested in becoming the team's next full-time manager. Andy Green is filling the position on an interim basis following Carlos Mendoza's firing last week, but has indicated he plans to return to his player development role after the season.

"I like my freedom," Martinez said before the Mets lost 5-3 to the Braves at Truist Park. "I have worked too many years to not keep it."

Martinez has a 1 ½-year-old daughter and is enjoying the luxury of world travel — he's planning a fishing trip in Fiji later this summer — and building his own schedule.

"You talk about the toughest job, manager of the New York Mets is the toughest job in baseball right now," Martinez said. "Managing is tough. You have to know how to maneuver pieces, how to handle pitching staffs, all that. I pride myself on the offensive side of things."

Martinez, 38, spent last year completely removed from baseball after playing his final game in 2024.

➤ **Kodai Senga** had a second straight solid relief appearance, pitching 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings and allowing one earned run on two hits with four strikeouts. **Matt Olson**'s eighth-inning homer was the only blemish on Senga, who was demoted to the bullpen last week following a brutal stretch in the rotation.

In his previous relief appearance the right-hander lasted five innings against the Phillies and surrendered two earned runs on four hits and one walk with four strikeouts.

"I think the first couple of innings today he had an electric fastball," Green said. "The forkballs really plays, it's been really good. Obviously, he's given up a couple of home runs, but I think you have to like the look of it, the way it looks it can pitch a leverage one inning. He's got that in him as well if the need arises."

ALL SKIDDING ASIDE

Bats wake up as Yanks top Twins to snap 7-game slide

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Yankees looked differently, played differently and found a different result against a club that sure felt familiar.

Maybe it was a lineup that looked far more whole, even without Aaron Judge. Trent Grisham immediately announced his return from the injured list by stroking a leadoff home run while Ryan McMahon doubled and fought for a nine-pitch walk. The two, who had been sidelined during the entirety of the club's slide, played a part in four of the team's five runs.

YANKEES	**5**	**Boxscore Page 36**
TWINS	**2**	

Maybe it was the passing storm with heavy winds and a sky that opened up after the top of the third, the downpour perhaps washing away the slop and grime that the Yankees had not been able to shake.

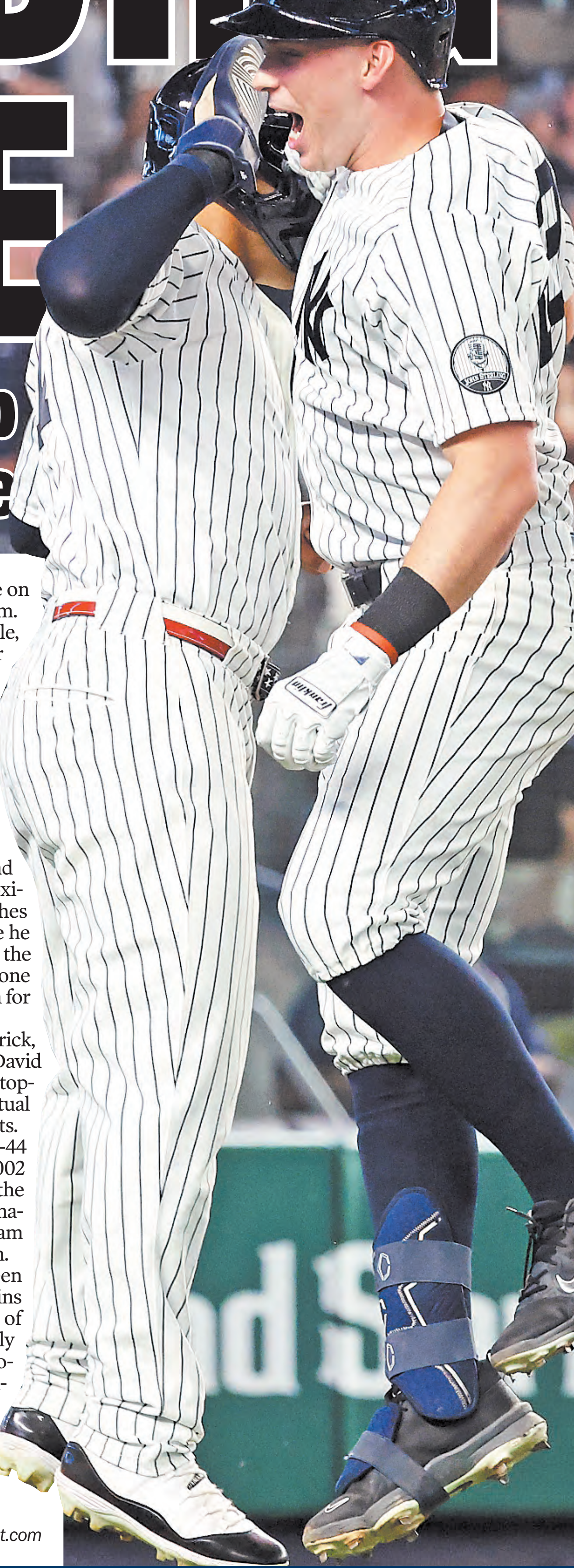
Maybe it was Gerrit Cole, one of the game's great competitors, trading in gas for guts to bridge a 53-minute rain delay and find a way to grind through five solid innings. Or maybe it was simply an opponent that seems always willing to take a punch when the Yankees' right hook needs work.

Whatever the cause, the Yankees looked more like the Yankees in snapping a season-worst, seven-game skid by quieting the Twins, 5-2, on Friday night in front of 45,104, many of whom brushed off the rain and remained on a fireworks night in The Bronx.

"We're in a rut," said Cole, who managed to take down five innings while allowing two runs despite the lengthy delay. "We needed this one today."

The Yankees (49-38) recorded their first victory since June 24, halting the hard-to-fathom skid by scoring their most runs since June 19 — they had not even plated five runs in 12 straight contests.

For the entirety of that slide, the Yankees were without Grisham, who missed three weeks with a hamstring strain. He returned to center and to the top of the order, stepping up in the first inning and authoring what manager Aaron Boone called "a classic Grish at-bat."



BACK TO LIFE: José Caballero scores on a sacrifice fly by Trent Grisham (right, celebrating with Ben Rice after Rice's two-run homer in the third) in the seventh inning of the Yankees' 5-2 win over the Twins. Fernando Cruz (inset) reacts after getting out of a bases-loaded jam to end the eighth.

He went down, 1-2, worked the count full, and then turned on a middle-of-the-plate changeup and smacked it to the second deck in right.

This despite just a one-game rehab assignment.

"It was like I never left," said Grisham, who had helplessly watched the club spiral without him. "Which is surprising — I thought I was going to have to find it a little bit."

McMahon, himself back from a throat infection, returned to third base — making a smooth play to help Fernando Cruz escape a jam in the eighth — and pushed José Caballero back to his natural shortstop.

A defense that had contributed to a stunning 17 unearned runs during the skid looked far more buttoned up.

"In what's been a tough week for us, to be able to go out there and play a complete game," Boone said. "That one feels good."

Ben Rice, who had gone 2-for-25 during the slide, followed up a Grisham single in the third inning by cracking his 24th home run of the season, this one pulled into the short porch, for a go-ahead, two-run shot.

The Yankees gained separation in the seventh, when McMahon doubled and scored on a knock from Caballero, who then came around to score on a sacrifice fly from Grisham.

On a day of returns, Cole, too, returned to form. After a pair of duds, the ace allowed just a first-inning home run to Kody Clemens and a well-placed RBI single from Victor Caratini in the fourth, an inning in which Cole's sheer presence on the mound impressed.

During the delay, he had gotten up to throw approximated innings — 8-15 pitches every 10 minutes to ensure he would be ready to take the mound — then talked Boone into allowing him to return for the fifth inning, too.

Cole, plus Brent Headrick, Paul Blackburn, Cruz and David Bednar (17th save), helped toppled a club that is a perpetual pushover around these parts.

The Yankees are now 112-44 against Minnesota since 2002 (128-46 if you include the postseason), which is the majors' best record for one team against another in the span.

The onslaught has been unabated despite the Twins making the playoffs for 10 of those seasons, a perfectly fine team against any opponent that isn't wearing pinstripes.

Whatever the cause, the skid is over.

"I think everyone was ready to turn the corner," Rice said.

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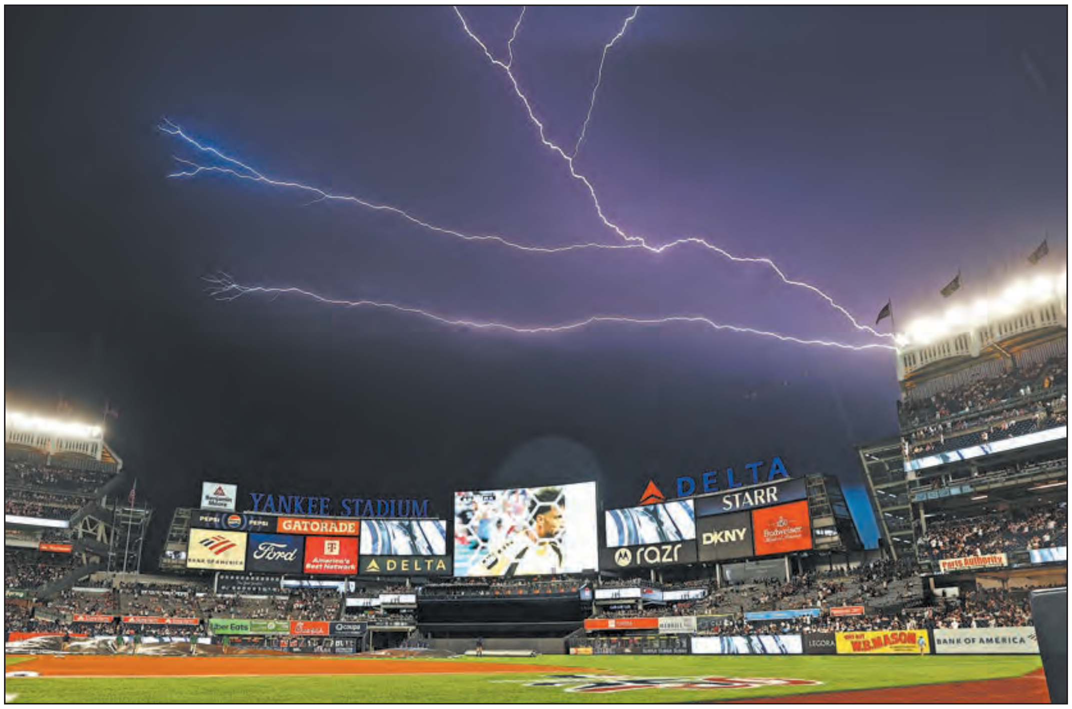

RIDE THE LIGHTNING: Grounds crew rush to put the tarp on the field as lightning strikes during the third inning at Yankee Stadium. The game was delayed 53 minutes because of the weather.

Cole wills way through 5 innings, lengthy delay

By DAN MARTIN

For much of the time Gerrit Cole has been back in the Yankees rotation after recovering from Tommy John surgery, the team had been clicking.

Now, they're still without Aaron Judge in the lineup and Carlos Rodón has joined Max Fried on the IL.

And then there's the seven-game losing streak they dragged into Friday night.

Not surprisingly, then, Cole was less concerned about whether he had pitched his best or been at his sharpest as against Minnesota, with the team trying to right itself.

"Screw coming back," Cole said of what his performance — five innings of two-run ball, while pitching through a nearly one-hour rain delay — meant personally. "We needed this win today. ... You've got to do hard stuff in this league sometimes. Sometimes it's not fun. It's not fun to sit around for an hour and 20 minutes, throwing bullpens, but it's what was needed. We needed a little bit more tonight and thankfully, we got it done."

In a 5-2 win over Minnesota, Cole, making his eighth start back since undergoing Tommy John surgery nearly a year and a half ago, willed his way through five innings.

The game was stopped by an oncoming storm as soon as Cole struck out Brooks Lee to end the top of the third.

The right-hander — after the game was stopped for 53 minutes — stayed in the game for two more innings.

He said he threw four simulated innings of about eight-to-15 pitches every 10 minutes during the delay and Aaron Boone said he listened to his ace and "the pitching guys" in opting to let Cole continue in the fourth.

Cole allowed two hits and a run in the fourth and Boone intended to pull him following that inning — with the Yankees up by one run and Cole at 78 pitches.

"He definitely was going to take me out and I definitely wasn't coming out," Cole said.

As Boone added, Cole, "was not having it, which was great."

He allowed a one-out double down the left field line to Luke Keaschall, but got Trevor Larnach and Lee to get out of the inning.

"I was pumped to see him go back out there and go through top of order," Boone said. "Once he fought for it, it was his. He finished strong."

The results weren't dominant, though seven strikeouts and no walks were encouraging and an improvement over most of his previous four outings- and certainly the two that led up to this one.

Cole, still finding his stuff after missing all of 2025 and nearly the first two months of this one following Tommy John surgery, had allowed nine runs in just 9 ²⁄₃ innings in his last two starts and had a 6.12 ERA in four appearances after starting his comeback with consecutive scoreless outings.

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Rodón lands on IL with elbow inflammation

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

On what was supposed to be a day of injury relief around the Yankees, yet another concern emerged for a club struggling both with health and performance.

The Yankees officially activated Trent Grisham and Ryan McMahon on Friday but placed Carlos Rodón on the 15-day injured list with what the lefty called "heavy inflammation" — but nothing worse — in his pitching elbow.

Rodón had been bothered by the elbow "on and off" for "the last couple weeks," he said, and was having issues with recovery that escalated this week. He underwent an MRI exam Thursday that found the inflammation and, most notably, found a UCL that was still intact.

"I think it's a pretty big exhale," Rodón said before the Yankees' 5-2 win over the Twins in The Bronx.

Rodón will receive a platelet-rich plasma injection and be shut down for a time — "at least a few days, maybe a week," manager Aaron Boone said — before building up again. Neither team nor player offered a timetable, but it is possible he returns within the month if the inflammation clears and recovery goes as planned.

At least at the moment, there is no long-term concern regarding Rodón's elbow, which underwent a procedure in the offseason to remove loose bodies and shave down a bone spur.

Still, the Yankees will be without another capable starting pitcher — the 2025 All-Star has pitched to a 3.30 ERA in nine starts this season — at a time when they lugged a season-high seven-game losing streak into play. Even with an elbow that became increasingly tricky to handle, Rodón allowed two unearned runs on one hit in five innings on Sunday in Boston.

"I really feel like Carlos was throwing the ball well and doing some really good things," Boone said. "Hopefully this is something that gets cleaned up and gets him in a better place so that he can return for the stretch drive and be even more of a factor for us."

Also available for the stretch drive, the Yankees hope, will be Max Fried, who has been building up from a bone bruise in his elbow and is facing hitters again. But as the Yankees stand today, the club's rotation has hit its first adversity with Cam Schlittler coming off his worst major league start, Gerrit Cole proving human, Ryan Weathers' ERA spiking from 3.14 to 4.08 in his past six starts and Will Warren letting up 13 runs in his past 16 ²⁄₃ innings.

More Yankees / Pages 43, 34

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INJURY REPORT

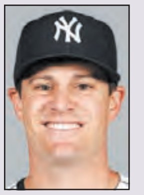
- **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) was placed on the 15-day injured list, retroactive to Tuesday, after his elbow hindered his between-start recovery.
- **Carlos Lagrange** (shoulder) is still undergoing tests after being placed on the minor league injured list, but the issue is "definitely going to cost him some time," Aaron Boone said.

ON DECK

vs. Twins

Saturday, 1:35 p.m.,
YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Brendan Beck



2026 stats:
0-0, 6.00 ERA

Career vs. MIN:
First start

Last appearance:
May 7, vs. TEX;
3 IP, 2 ER, 3 BB

PITCH BREAKDOWN

56%	35%	6%
4-Seamer	Slider	Curve

RHP Zebby Matthews

2026 stats:
4-5, 4.15 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-2, 12.46 ERA

Last start:
Mon., at HOU;
7 IP, 1 ER, 7 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

36%	22%	14%
4-Seamer	Slider	Curve

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: vs. Twins,
1:35 p.m., NBCSN, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers
vs. RHP Joe Ryan

MONDAY: at Rays,
6:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post (3); Robert Sabo

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Focus Features

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Obsession" (VOD) is a classic case of limitations fostering creativity. Curry Barker's grimly hilarious horror-thriller has absolutely earned all its hype and success.

OUR CALL: STREAM IT

WHAT TO WATCH

Zoey Deutch's most recent rom-com, **"Voicemails for Isabelle,"** has made waves, but let's not forget her other iconic Netflix rom-com film, **"Set It Up."** Deutch (left) and Glen Powell play two assistants who attempt to set their bosses (Lucy Liu and Taye Diggs) up in order to get some much deserved free time. Naturally, they fall in love with each other along the way.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH.
WHEREVER YOU WATCH

WHAT, LIKE IT'S HARD?

Lexi Minetree's 'Elle' co-stars say she 'nailed' her iconic tongue-twister line every time

Amazon

Lexi Minetree (above) stars in Prime Video's "Elle" with Chandler Kinney (below) and Gabrielle Policano (below left).

By HOPE SLOOP

You don't have to ask **"Elle"** star and Hollywood newcomer Lexi Minetree if she is a fan of **"Legally Blonde: The Musical"** to know that songs like "Chip On Your Shoulder" are on repeat in her trailer.

Sitting down with DECIDER to chat about her role in the new Prime Video prequel based on **"Legally Blonde,"** Minetree — who was joined by co-stars Chandler Kinney and Gabrielle Policano — said that her love of the musical birthed from the Reese Witherspoon film runs deep.

"Gay or European?!" the actress said excitedly, naming one of her favorite songs from the show and sharing that her connection to Elle Woods has been present for a while, even if only through proximity. "I did do a 24-hour musical at my college of 'Legally Blonde,' and I played Margot, not Elle Woods."

In the movie and the musical, Margot is one of Elle's Delta Nu sorority sisters and is part of her close trio of friends who support her on her quest to get into Harvard and then cheer her on while at school. The movie version of the character was played by Jessica Cauffiel while the Broadway role was originated by now Tony nominee Annaleigh Ashford.

"I love the musical so so so much," Minetree told DECIDER, adding that the cast of "Elle" even got the opportunity to have a bonding experience involving the musical in British Columbia. "We actually went to go see it as a cast when we were filming Season 1 at a local community theater, and it was so wonderful to see it. It felt very serendipitous that they were doing that show at the same time we were filming."

To that, Policano — who plays Liz, one of Elle's only friends in Seattle in the prequel series — added that it happened again as they were filming the second season of the show, which Prime Video renewed back in January. "And then again, in Season 2, there was a different production happening," Policano, who hails from the theater world, shared as Minetree retorted, "'Legally Blonde' is in, baby, I guess."

"Everlasting," added Kinney.

Of course, like the character the series is named after, "Elle" is intent on creating its own unique and "everlasting" fanbase by giving the world new stories of how Elle Woods became her fabulous self, long before she made it to college, met Warner, and ended up at Harvard Law School. To do that, the team set out to create memorable (and hilarious) moments that will stick with the fans for years to come.

With the task of giving viewers a compelling story also comes the dream that they might just give the world lines as iconic as some of the original quips from the movie. And given that each episode is titled a different quote from "Legally Blonde," you can tell just how badly the entire cast and crew want everyone to join in on some of their favorite lines from the show.

"One of my favorite lines ever, just because it's so fun to say, is, 'You know, you really should make a habit of keeping a non-expired pen on your person at all times in the event of an anaphylactic emergency,'" Minetree shared, referencing a line that Elle says in Episode 6.

At that mention, her co-stars chimed in that the tongue-twister of a line was said "so many times" while filming and somehow she "nailed it" over and over again.

"I can't give any context for this, so all I'm going to say is 61 tampons," Policano shared with a laugh as Kinney jumped in and added that the second half of that line is her favorite moment from Season 1. "All bonded together to create one rat king."

"One tampon rat king," Minetree laughed.

You're just going to have to watch "Elle" for the context on that one.

NBC

TRENDING NOW

"The Real Housewives of London" are heading to America! The first season of Hayu's U.K. spinoff has been acquired by Bravo, and new episodes are set to air weekly on the network starting July 21, with episodes streaming on Peacock the next day. Plus, if you can't get enough, the reality show just wrapped filming on Season 2.

WHAT'S NEW

ON ABC/DISNEY+/HULU
"**Disney Celebrates America: Nashville's Star-Spangled Bash**," a Fourth of July special.

ON NBC/PEACOCK
"**Macy's 4th of July Fireworks**," ringing in 250 years of the U.S. (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

DRAMA

Rocky II: 3:30 p.m. on AMC. Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire. Rocky faces a difficult time in life, until he finally agrees to have a rematch wit the Champ.

COMEDY

The Wedding Singer: 9 p.m. on COM. Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore. Robbie, a singer, and Julia, a waitress, are both engaged, but to the wrong people.

ADVENTURE

Raiders of the Lost Ark: 11 p.m. on FX. Harrison Ford, Karen Allen. Dr. Jones is tasked by Army Intelligence to help locate a legendary ancient power.

Saturday July 4, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS

Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Tri State 250: Our Legacy of Liberty (R)		The Great American Block Party 250: Largest fireworks show in history. Zac Brown Band. Jon Batiste. Goo Goo Dolls.						CBS News New York 11:00pm	
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Sail4th 250 - Highlights		Macy's 4th of July Fireworks				Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Cutdown		News 4 New York at 11	Macy's 4th of July
5 WNYW	5	5	5	FIFA World Cup Live.	FIFA World Cup Live.	MLB All Star Live.	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Atlanta Braves from Truist Park. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(5:00) Celebrates	Celebrates	Celebrates	Disney Celebrates America: Nashville's Star-Spangled Bash: Artists and music groups from various genres perform in Nashville.						Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Rasmussen (R)		In Depth	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: eero 400: from Chicagoland Speedway.			I Am Steve McQueen (2014, Documentary) Zoë Bell.				PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		Seinfeld: The Susie	Seinfeld: The Pothole
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	Declarations: Black		America - Made in Virginia: 250 Years Together				Capitol Fourth: 250th Weekend Celebration			Lucy Worsley (R)
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing (R)	Midsomer Murders: Country Matters			(9:35) Velvet: Who Gives the Most? (R)			Folk Americana	
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Soccer Live.				NWSL Soccer: Gotham FC at San Diego Wave FC.				NWSL Live.	Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	Piensa Rápido		Real Steel (2011, Ciencia ficción) Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo. PG-13 ★★★						Fam. de 10	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Mundial 26	Todo el Mundial Directo.		Macy's Celebración del 4 de Julio				Noticias Telemundo		Noticias (R)	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Tri State 250: (R)		Entertainment Tonight		Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage	Storage (R)	Storage (R)
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Rocky III (1982, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. ★★★				Rocky IV (1985, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. PG ★★½				Rocky V (1990) Sylvester Stallone. ★★		
BBCAM	71	101	189	The Patriot (2000, Drama) Mel Gibson.			Apollo 13 (1995, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG ★★★½						The Patriot (2000) R ★★½	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (2011, Comedy) Tyler Perry. PG-13 ★½						Norbit (2007) PG-13 ★½	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) The Fourth in America			The Fourth in America: Celebrating 250				The Fourth in America: Celebrating 250			
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	50 First Dates (2004, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★★				The Wedding Singer (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler.				50 First Dates (2004) ★★★	
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Phineas	Phineas and Ferb (2011) NR ★★★½			Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) Pretty Woman (1990, Romance)			Pretty Woman (1990, Romance) Richard Gere. R ★★★					27 Dresses (2008) Katherine Heigl. ★★½		
ESPN	28	36	70	Special	ESPN Films				ESPN Films				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	30 for 30	Athletes Unlimited Softball: Cascade vs. Spark Live.				Polo	E60			ESPN FC	
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	Freedom	America 250: Celebrating Freedom									
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	America	Celebrates	Celebrates	Disney Celebrates America: Nashville's Star-Spangled Bash						National Treasure (2004)	
FS1	400	99	83	(4:00) Saratoga Live Live.		America's Day at the Races Live.							FIFA World Cup Taped.	
FX	10	40	53	America	Celebrates	Celebrates	Disney Celebrates America: Nashville's Star-Spangled Bash						Raiders of the Lost Ark	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Veteran's Christmas (2018)			Christmas Under Construction (2026, Romance) G				Deck the Walls (2024, Holiday) Ashley Greene.			
HGTV	64	98	165	Hunt	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	World War II w. (R)		Ralph Lau.	George Washington: Father of His Country				(10:05) George Washington: Father of His Country			
ID	23	171	123	Homicide	Homicide: Never Give Up		The Man with No Face		The Man with No Face		Homicide Hunter		Homicide Hunter	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Taken in Montana (2023, Thriller)			Disappearance in Yellowstone (2022) Lucie Guest. NR				Vanished in Yosemite (2023, Thriller) Skye Coyne. NR			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Invisible Agent (1942, Science Fiction) Ilona Massey. NR ★★					Batman	Star Trek: Piece of Action	
MSG	27	87	78	PokerGO Cu	UFA		UFA		3ICE 3-on-3 Hockey: 3ICE World Cup Replay.					
MSG Plus	48	88	80	Team Boxing League: Houston Hitmen at LA Elite				Team Boxing League: Phoenix Fury at Las Vegas Hustle Replay.					Fairways of Life	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	(6:00) Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007, Fantasy)					(9:05) Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe.					
NATGEO	65	162	121	Life Below	Life Below Zero (R)		Life Below Zero (R)		Living Wild (R)		Wild Babies of (R)		National Parks: USA (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Trolls World Tour (2020, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:40) Yellowstone (R)		(7:50) Yellowstone: Under a Blanket (R)			(8:53) Yellowstone (R)		Yellowstone (R)		(11:14) Yellowstone (R)	
SNY	26	60	77	Minor Lgue	USL League One Soccer Live.				Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2403				Post Game	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn	Twilight Zn
TBS	8	39	52	(5:30) Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy)			Just Go With It (2011, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½					(10:22) Just Go With It (2011, Comedy)		
TCM	82	41	230	(5:15) The Music Man (1962, Musical) G			Born Free (1966, Drama) Virginia McKenna. PG ★★★				A Hard Day's Night (1964, Musical) The Beatles. ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	(6:00) Little	Little Singles (R)		Jay & Pamela (R)		90 Day Diaries (R)		90 Day Diaries (R)		90 Day Diaries (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	65 (2023)	Specials	Ringside	The Fight: Abdullah Mason vs. Albert Bell: from Wolstein Center in Cleveland. Live.							
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire: Spartacus		Chicago Fire: Let It Burn		Chicago Fire: 2112		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire: Bar Time	
VH1	19	52	217	(5:30) Jumanji (1995, Fantasy) PG ★★★			Gridiron Gang (2006, Drama) Dwayne Johnson. PG-13 ★★★						Nobody's Fool (2018) R ★★	
WE	59	42	149	NCIS: Seek	NCIS: Squall		NCIS: Chasing Ghosts		NCIS: Berlin		NCIS: Revenge		NCIS: Double Blind	
YES	53	89	76	Homegrown	Minor League Baseball: Hartford Yard Goats at Somerset Patriots.					Major League Cricket: Los Angeles Knight Riders at MI New York.				
HBO	511	301	400	(6:08) The Mummy (2017, Adventure)			Lee Cronin's The Mummy (2026) Jack Reynor. R				Life Larry	Life, Larry: Farewell (R)		Dragon (R)
MAX	531	371	420	Shazam! Fury (2023)		(7:42) Blue Beetle (2023, Action) Xolo Maridueña. ★★½				(9:50) Wonder Woman (2017, Action) Gal Gadot, Chris Pine. ★★★½				
MGM Plus	595		395	Transformers: The Last Knight (2017)			Project Hail Mary (2026, Drama) Ryan Gosling. PG-13					The Core (2003, Drama) Aaron Eckhart.		
PARSHO	551	321	365	Dexter	Dexter: Resurrection		Dexter: Resurrection		Dexter: Resurrection		The Expendables (2010) R ★★½			Expend. 2

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DOLAN HANDS RANGERS' REINS TO SON QUENTIN

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YANKS SNAP SKID IN WIN OVER TWINS

BATS WAKE UP AS SLIDE ENDS AT 7

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KNICKS INK VET CENTER

PAGE 42

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